

COMM 100 - Love

HOW TO FIND INFORMATION ON YOUR TOPIC



There are two major types of sources that you'll use for this assignment: **Books** and **journal/magazine articles**. Also, *carefully* searching the World Wide Web can be useful as well.



- **Books:**

Your first stop in the library should probably be in the **Reference** area on the Main floor. On the reverse side of this handout is a list of Reference sources that you will likely find useful.


Also, use the **Library Catalog** to find books upstairs in our General Collection.

From the library's homepage, click on **Find Books**. Enter a one or two-word keyword search for your topic.

Ex. Keyword: **domestic violence** How many hits?

You can *narrow* your search adding another search term.

Ex. Keyword: **domestic violence and women** Now, how many hits?

Not happy with what you see (or *don't see*) in our Catalog? Click on the  icon! **PASCAL Delivers** allows you to search *and borrow from* other SC academic libraries! It's easy! Just follow these simple steps:

1. Once you've clicked on the icon, you should be taken to the PASCAL Catalog, where hopefully, you'll see some books on your person. If you see one you want to request, click [Place Request](#).
2. Select **Columbia College** from the drop-down menu and click "Submit above information."
3. Enter your name and your CC Unique ID, which *should* be the number you use to log into Koala Connection with. Click "Submit." We'll contact you when the book comes in, which should only take 3-4 days.



- **Journal/magazine articles: Use the library's Online Databases**

From the library's homepage, click on **Find Articles**, then scroll down and click on **Current Events/Timely Topics**. The following databases are very helpful to use for this type of assignment. (*Please note: the Remote/off-campus login is your CC email username/password*)

Opposing Viewpoints (better to use for research for your follow-up speech)
Academic Search Premier or **Expanded Academic ASAP**

General Reference Center (Magazine Index)
LexisNexis Academic

Again, keyword searches will likely work best. If your topic is very broad, it is a good idea to add a second (or even third) search term when using databases.

Ex. **energy and cars**
 energy and cars and laws

OVER ->

Suggested Reference Sources

Name a topic and chances are, there's a *specialized encyclopedia* for it!

This is just a *sample* of what's on our shelves!

These are *excellent* sources. *Why?* They're usually

- **Objective**
- **Unbiased**
- **and fairly up-to-date.**

Q. Um, so where *is* the Reference area?

A. Main Floor! The stacks over to the right! 😊

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Source</u>	<u>Call Number</u>
STATISTICS! ☺	<i>Statistical Abstract of the United States</i>	READY REF HA 202
Single parents	<i>Encyclopedia of Women and Gender</i>	REF HQ 1115 E43 2001
Domestic Violence	<i>Encyclopedia of Interpersonal Violence</i>	REF HM 1121 E57 2008
Terrorism/National Security	<i>Encyclopedia of Terrorism</i>	REF HV 6431 C65 2007
Gangs	<i>Encyclopedia of Gangs</i>	REF HV 6439 U5 E53 2008
Eating Disorders	<i>Encyclopedia of Obesity and Eating Disorders</i>	REF RC 552 E18 C37 2000
Mental Illness/Social Work Issues	<i>Encyclopedia of Social Work</i>	REF HV 12 E53 2008
Prison/Correctional Facilities	<i>Encyclopedia of Prisons and Correctional Facilities</i>	REF HV 9471 E427 2005
Gun Control	<i>Encyclopedia of Gun Control and Gun Rights</i>	REF KF 3491 .A68 U88 2000
Addiction	<i>Encyclopedia of Drugs, Alcohol and Addictive Behavior</i>	REF HV 5804 E53 2009
Prescription Meds	<i>Complete guide to Prescription & Non-Prescription Drugs</i>	REF RM 301.15 G75
Homelessness	<i>Encyclopedia of Homelessness</i>	REF HV 4493 E53 2004
Adoption	<i>Encyclopedia of Adoption</i>	REF HV 875.55 A28 2000
Gay Rights	<i>Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History in America</i>	REF HQ 76.8 U5 K73 2005
Hip-Hop Culture	<i>Encyclopedia of Rap and Hip-hop Culture</i>	REF ML 102 R27 B96 2006
Smoking Ban	<i>Tobacco in History and Culture: an encyclopedia</i>	REF GT 3020 T594 2005
Euthanasia	<i>Handbook of Death & Dying</i>	REF HQ 1073 H36 2003
Ethics in Science/	<i>Encyclopedia of Science, Technology and Ethics</i>	REF Q 175.35 E53 2005

If you don't see your topic reflected here, just ask a friendly librarian - we LOVE to help you guys!



World Wide Web



Also, carefully searching the World Wide Web can be useful as well. Here are some recommended WWW sites that might be of interest to you.

The Pew Research Center (Public Opinion polls): <http://people-press.org/>
Statistical Abstract of the United States Online: <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/>

The library staff also maintains a collection of recommended web sites that you may want to investigate. From the library's homepage, click on **Find WWW Resources**, then **Sites by Subject**, then you can browse various subject areas - "GLBTQ", "Political Science" or "Women's Studies" to name a few.

Tired of Google's *overkill*?



Tame it!

In the Google Search box, type in **site:gov** or **site:edu** or **site:org** then your search term(s). Google will only search for results from those generally-more-trustworthy domains.

But if you're still going to surf the Web, some things to consider are:

- **Bias** – Who/what organization put together the site and what agenda might they have?
(Tip: Look for an "About Us" tab and read up on those responsible for the site's content)
- **Accuracy** – Are the facts accurate based on what you already know? A web site can be both biased and accurate; they may give you some of the facts, but not include *all* the facts about a particular topic or issue
(Tip: Save your Internet searching for last; you'll be a more discerning researcher!)
- **Design** – Is it easily navigable? Too busy or messy? This can say a lot about the overall quality of the website
(Tip: Look for a top or left-hand margin that has easily identifiable navigation tabs)
- **Commercialism** – Are you attacked by pop-up ads as soon as the page opens? Are you asked for personal information? These can be 'red flag' warnings that you are not in a good place!

Can I use Wikipedia?

Wikipedia is not considered a scholarly source of information. Anyone (yes, that means me, you, your little brother, or the dude at the gas station) can immediately publish anything on there. Sounds pretty cool, but if you think about it, that means you don't know what you're getting. Therefore, you shouldn't use it.