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ASK A LIBRARIAN



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Check my schedule for this week

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4th Floor, Room 426
CSU, Northridge
18111 Nordhoff Street
Northridge, CA
91330-8327

HSCI 132:History of Preventive Medicine and Public Health ARCHIVED - last updated 10/9/2011

Professor John Schillinger

Assignment

Write short technical papers on health care crisis or global climate change

Developing a Search Strategy for Your Topic

What is your assignment prompt? What questions do you need to answer about the topic? Brainstorm for *keywords* and *key phrases* that express the major concepts or issues involved, including synonyms and related terms.

Examples: Topic Prompt and Keywords

Topic/Prompt: health care crisis - healthcare or health care or medical care

crisis or reform*

global climate change -

climate or climatic

change or changes

How to Cite Articles

- Determine which citation style to use; the two most commonly used at CSUN are MLA and APA. If your professor didn't specify, pick one and use it consistently.
- Check the sample style sheets (MLA or APA) to see what information the article citation should contain and how it should be formatted.
- Be sure to indicate where material you quoted directly or paraphrased came from.

For more information, see <u>Citing Your Sources - Plagiarism</u>.

Research Strategies

- 1. Getting Started
- 2. Finding Sources
- 3. Evaluating Sources
- 4. Writing and Creating
- 5. <u>Citing Your</u> <u>Sources</u>

global or world or worldwide

Finding Newspaper and Magazine Articles

The following databases and sources contain many full-text articles from newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals from around the country, and the world.

- <u>General Onefile</u>: Articles from magazines, newspapers and scholarly journals.
- Academic Search Elite: Articles from magazines and scholarly journals.
- JSTOR: Articles from scholarly journals.

- Lexis-Nexis: Newspaper articles
- ProQuest Newspapers: Newspaper articles

Start at the library's home page, http://library.csun.edu, and click "Find Articles by Subject" Then click "General/Multi-subject" or "News & Current Issues" or "Health Sciences + Nursing" to access the databases above.

Evaluating Search Results

Once you find an article, it is important to critically evaluate it to see if you can use it for your research purposes. Listed below are things to think about when trying to determine the value of a particular article:

- Skim the list of article citations: Do your keywords appear in any of them?
- Read article abstracts (or summaries):
 How well does each article pertain to your topic?
- What kind of information does each citation/abstract/article appear to provide about your topic? Is it a research findings report, critical analysis, editorial or commentary, news report, or investigative report?
- Consider the currency of each citation—when was the article published? This will be more or less important, depending on your topic.

Evaluating Web Sites (should you believe everything you read online?)

What to look for (for a more detailed version go to:

http://library.csun.edu/Guides/ResearchStrategies/EvaluatingLibraryResources

- Authority Who is the author? What's his/her background, education, experience? Would you trust the organizations they are affiliated with? Can you find contact information?
- Content & Coverage What does it cover? Is it aimed at experts? Is the information relevant?
- Timeliness When was it written? When was it last updated? Is the information still current?
- Accuracy Can you check the information somewhere else? (Especially important for things like Wikipedia!) Has someone else reviewed the content? Does it include a list of works cited or other clues to how the information was found?
- Objectivity Does the site have a bias?
 Are there advertisements or links to

organizations that might be a clue?

Accessing Library Resources from Off Campus

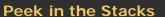
As a CSUN student you can access most databases from off campus, anywhere around the world. You just need to make sure you have your PORTAL username and password. When you click on a database from off campus, you'll see the following screen. When you've entered the ID and password information, you'll be redirected to the database

Digital Collections Pins Cited at the Oviatt





<u>Celebrate Banned Books</u> <u>Week at the Oviatt</u>



Segovia in the Sundial

What Fools These Mortals
Be!

Mexican Independence

Oviatt Library Twitter ScholarWorks Twitter

LibAnswers FAQ

Can patrons use personal scooters inside the library?

How can a community college professor get online access to the library database?

What movies can I watch online through the library?

How do I find scripts? Is the script library at the Oviatt?

How do I cite my paper in Chicago style?

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