Where do I Start?

- **Mirlyn**: Is the online catalog that shows information on books, newspapers, magazines, and ephemera that are owned by our Library. You can log into Mirlyn to do things such as request a book from Buhr through Library-to-Library delivery or to place a recall on a book that is checked out.

- **Subject Encyclopedias**: Do an advanced search in Mirlyn, selecting “Hatcher Graduate Library” as the location and “Reference, 2nd floor N” as the collection along with a broad keyword for your area, like “aging” or “television” to find an encyclopedia or handbook on a topic for an overview.

- **Search Tools**: Article indexing databases to which the Library subscribes can be found through Search Tools [http://searchtools.lib.umich.edu](http://searchtools.lib.umich.edu). Search Tools allows you to select a database by name, subject, or keyword. You can also access databases using the Find Database box on the left-hand side of the University Library page [http://www.lib.umich.edu](http://www.lib.umich.edu) or the Graduate Library page [http://www.lib.umich.edu/grad/](http://www.lib.umich.edu/grad).

More on Search Tools

- Search by keyword or title directly from the library main page – [http://www.lib.umich.edu](http://www.lib.umich.edu)

- Find lists of the best databases by subject or discipline within Search Tools [http://searchtools.lib.umich.edu](http://searchtools.lib.umich.edu)

- Read a brief description of a database before selecting it (ℹ️)

- Find links to contact information for subject specific librarians within Search Tools
1. Form your research topic into a specific question or questions.

Example: What is the relationship between feminism and rock music and has this changed in recent decades?

2. Break the question down into concepts.

- Feminism
- Rock music
- Timeframe (1980 – present)

3. Brainstorm possible concept terms

- Feminism = equal rights, sisterhood, women’s movement, womanism
- Rock music = music, popular music, rock, hip-hop, grunge, pop, rock-and-roll

Consider using either a general or subject specific thesaurus to help you think of other terms to use in a search.

4. Use Library of Congress Subject Headings or Descriptors

Try browsing the printed version of Library of Congress Subject Headings, available on the shelves near the information desk on the second floor Z 695 .U47.

What if the Library Doesn’t Have a Resource?

WorldCat  Interlibrary Loan
Books in Print
Google Books
Google Scholar

http://www.lib.umich.edu/ill
**Additional Resources to Consider**

- **Government Documents Center**
  [http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/](http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/)
  An award-winning, comprehensive site for government information from all levels, along with statistical information, demographics information and guides.

- **Finding Dissertations**
  Taubman Library’s Guide to Dissertations
  [http://www.lib.umich.edu/taubman/dissertations.html](http://www.lib.umich.edu/taubman/dissertations.html)
  Use Search Tools to find:
  - **Dissertation Abstracts** (only offers abstracts – not full-text but it covers 90% of North American doctoral dissertations and thousands worldwide)
  - **Dissertations & Theses @ University of Michigan** – full-text available free online from 1997 to current
  - **Dissertations & Theses @ CIC Institutions** (Big Ten Universities) – full-text available free online from 1997 to current

- **Graduate Library Guides Database**:
  [http://www.lib.umich.edu/guides](http://www.lib.umich.edu/guides)
  Search for subject specific guides to databases and web resources or tutorials for specific software. This database is also browsable by subject or by title.

- **Google Scholar**:
  Good for broad searches of scholarly information. Google Scholar may not offer as many tricks for manipulating results as library subscription databases but it does allow you to search across disciplines to find abstracts, theses, journal articles, preprint repositories and scholarly organizations for current information.

**Library Tips and Tricks**

- **LibX Toolbar and Firefox**:
  [http://www.lib.umich.edu/labs/libx](http://www.lib.umich.edu/labs/libx)
  Allows you to link to University of Michigan Library catalog and subscription databases directly from other online resources like Amazon.com, Wikipedia.org. This downloadable Firefox extension also provides a browser toolbar for searching library resources or to link directly to chat help and other useful tools.

- **MGet It**
  MGet It is a tool provided by the University Library that creates shortcuts to the full-text of online articles, as well as links to other Library services. When searching in many of the University Library databases, you will see an MGet It button or link that connects you to a menu of options.
• Delivery Services:
  http://www.lib.umich.edu/services/order/
  o Interlibrary Loan
  o 7-Fast
  o In-process Locator service
  o Library-to-Library
  o Request a Graduate Library purchase form
    http://www.lib.umich.edu/grad/collections/request.html

Get Library Help

Sue Wortman, Interim Women's Studies Librarian
swortman@umich.edu
214-F Hatcher
Phone: 615-7171

For a list of all library subject specialists go to
http://www.lib.umich.edu/collections/specialists.html

Ask Us! http://www.lib.umich.edu/askus/
  • Instant Message Chat Reference
  • Email Reference
  • Phone Reference
  • In-person Reference

The Interdisciplinary Librarian Blog
http://mblog.lib.umich.edu/multi_lib/