RECOMMENDED ENCYCLOPEDIAS

Encyclopedia articles are often great starting points: they can fill in gaps in your knowledge, provide a broad overview of a topic, spark new ideas, introduce you to contemporary and historical leading scholars, lead you to important publications, and more. There are several “landmark” encyclopedias in the field of religion that are worth knowing about, and potentially relevant for researching capstone topics. To access e-books, search book titles in OBIS. Location of print titles is indicated.

- *Oxford Biblical Studies Online*, an online collection of several useful encyclopedias from Oxford Univ. Press

PRIMARY DATABASES FOR SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS IN RELIGION

**ATLA Religion Database**

The premier index to journal articles (from more than 1,700 journals), book reviews, and collections of scholarly essays in all fields of religion; coverage goes back to 1949.

**ATLASerials, Religion Collection**

Full text articles and book reviews from more than 220 leading religion journals.

**Religion and Philosophy Collection**

Full text articles and book reviews from more than 300 journals in religion and philosophy.

MULTIDISCIPLINARY DATABASES

**Academic Search Complete**

Indexes articles from ~13,600 academic periodicals in all disciplines; over 80% of the journals indexed are peer-reviewed; ~67% include full text.

**JSTOR**

Digital library of 2,400+ academic journals (124 in religion), dating back to the first volume published, along with thousands of monographs and other materials, largely in social sciences and humanities disciplines; few recent issues are available (most titles have a 3-5 year “moving wall”); every word of every article is searchable, a feature that has both an upside and a downside!

**Web of Science**

A collection of several databases with special features including references to conference proceedings as well as journal articles, etc.; cited reference searching (better for articles than books); related records searching. Indexes more than 12,000 journals across all disciplines, with special strength in the sciences.
WorldCat
A database of materials held by libraries around the world; over 402+ million records; 491+ languages and dialects from 112 countries and territories; items may be available via Interlibrary Loan.

OTHER DISCIPLINE-SPECIFIC DATABASES
Depending on your topic, the following databases may also prove useful. If you need assistance using these or other library resources, ask at the Research Help Desk in Mudd.

- Anthropology Plus
- Bibliography of Asian Studies
- Education Full Text
- Education Research Complete
- Environment Complete
- ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)
- ETHX Web (1974-2009)
- Gender Studies Database
- Index to Jewish Periodicals
- LGBT Life
- Middle Eastern and Central Asian Studies
- Peace Research Abstracts
- Philosopher’s Index
- SocINDEX
- RAMBI: The Index of Articles on Jewish Studies

*To determine if the library has a particular journal, Use “360 Link to Full Text” or “Find It!” where available in research databases, or search Journal Finder from Library home page or the Quick Links pull-down menu

SEARCH ENGINES
SUMMON – first (default) tab on library home page search box
searches across the spectrum of library content: books, scholarly articles, newspapers, data, audio, video, images, government documents, and more; searches many, but not all, library resources
- draws from OBIS, many full text and article indexing databases, and (if you select the box) digital repositories at other colleges, universities, research centers, and open-access archives
- if links don’t lead to full text, be persistent or ask for help; we probably do have access
- when not to use Summon:
  - OBIS and OhioLINK are generally better for finding books
  - subject specific databases are generally better for complex or comprehensive searches

GOOGLE SCHOLAR – http://scholar.google.com
Search Google Scholar (instead of Google) for the “good” stuff: books, articles from scholarly publishers, and materials in college and university repositories.
- Like Web of Science, provides cited references (better for books than articles)
- Set your GS preferences to get Oberlin’s “Find Full Text” links and direct export to RefWorks
- Install the Google Scholar search engine in your browser

RESEARCH GUIDES, TOOLS, AND SERVICES
  ebook, connect via OBIS , print copy Main Reference Z253 .U69 2010 (and other locations, ck. OBIS)

How to Prepare an Annotated Bibliography. Maintained by the Olin & Uris Libraries, Cornell University.
  http://guides.library.cornell.edu/annotatedbibliography

  Main Library LB1047.3 .M33 2009 (2nd copy in Main Reference)

Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad)
• get books and articles, etc. that aren’t available at Oberlin or via OhioLINK

Research Appointments
• meet one-on-one with a librarian to discuss sources and strategies

RefWorks (citation manager)
• create a personal database of references and sources consulted
• collect, organize, and edit citations
• add notes, attach documents
• automatically format bibliographies and lists of works cited in hundreds of different styles

Contact information
Cynthia H. Comer, Academic Commons Coordinator
Oberlin College Main Library
Office: Mudd 103
P: 440.775.5032
E: cynthia.comer@oberlin.edu

Oberlin College Library. CHC, 9/17

3
### Basic Concepts for Searching Databases
(with apologies for all the sociology examples!)

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<tr>
<th>Concept</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Example</th>
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| Phrase search (quotes required) | search for an exact phrase (most, but not all, databases use quotation marks) | “death penalty”  
“standardized test”  
“reality TV” |
| Boolean logic (for keyword searching) | use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) for more precise searching | See following examples |
| AND                            | search for records that have all of the words (narrows the search)          | race and poverty  
drug use and educational attainment |
| OR                             | search for records that have any of the words (broadens the search)         | homosexual or gay or lesbian or queer  
china or japan or korea |
| NOT                            | exclude records that have the word (narrows the search)                     | advertising not (TV or television) |
| Truncation                     | search for root word with any ending (most, but not all, databases use an asterisk [*]) | religio* [finds religion, religious, religiosity, religiousness, etc.] |

### Additional Techniques for Database Searches

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<th>Concept</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Example</th>
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| Complex Boolean search       | [place search words for the same concept in the same search box (or in parentheses)] | (spous* or wife or wives or husband*)  
and (abus* or batter* or violen*) |
| Proximity                    | require words to appear within a certain distance of each other n (for “near”) = words can appear in any order w (for “within”) = words must appear in specified order | asian* n4 american*  
african w2 american*  
(n# and w# indicate the maximum number of intervening words)  
note: if no quotes or proximity connectors or are used, Ebsco defaults to w5 |
| Field qualification (field limiting) | require words to appear in a certain field in the database record (easy way is to use drop-down menus) | au coleman  
(for author field)  
ti racial profiling  
(for title field) |
| Limit (filter)               | restrict search results to a subset of the database                        | e.g., by language, year of publication, type of publication |
| Add to folder (Mark, Save, Store, etc.) | select or save records from search results for future action | save specified records to display, print, email, or add to bibliographic manager (e.g., RefWorks) later |