Context / Background information

Entries in encyclopedias published by Oxford Univ. Press; authoritative alternative to Wikipedia

Library catalogs

*OBIS*: http://obis.oberlin.edu/Catalog of books and ebooks available at Oberlin
*OhioLINK*: http://olc1.ohiolink.edu/search/Catalog of books and more at other Ohio libraries, many of which you can request; delivered in ~3-5 days

**Primary source keywords:** oral history, personal narrative, memoir, journal, diary, art, photographs, memory, memorial, motion pictures, film

Tools to know about

Google Scholar  http://scholar.google.com
Search engine of scholarly resources from all fields, including some freely available items. ‘Cited By’ links are especially useful; never pay for articles, check journal finder or use ILLiad to order

ILLiad  http://illiad.oberlin.edu/illiad/logon.html
Inter-library loan system; request articles that we don’t have available and books that are not available in OhioLINK

Databases for journal articles

*Academic Search Complete* – large multidisciplinary database; scholarly and popular sources
*America: History and Life* -- articles on the history and culture of the United States
*Bibliography of Native Americans* – broad range of sources, largely scholarly, on Native American “

History and Culture
*Communications and Mass Media Complete* – journals from many fields relating to media, journalism, film, television and the Internet
*Film and Television Literature Index* – journals on film, television and broadcast arts
*Gender Studies Database* – gender-engaged scholarship from many disciplines
*HAPI: Hispanic American Periodicals Index* -- journals on Latin America, the Caribbean, and Hispanics/Latinos in the US
*Legal Collection* – scholarly and professional publications in law
*MLA International Bibliography* – journals in the study of language, literature, folklore and linguistics
*SocIndex* -- sociology journals
*Urban Studies Abstracts* -- urban studies journals from many fields
*Worldwide Political Science Abstracts* – politics journals
Databases and Digital Collections with primary source material

**American Periodicals (1740-1940)** scanned periodicals published between 1740 and 1940, including special interest and general magazines, literary and professional journals, children's and women's magazines and more

**ArtStor** over 1 million images of artwork of many forms covering broad time periods and geographies, includes art photography

**Ethnic Newswatch** (1959-current) newspapers, magazines and journals of the ethnic, minority and native press in America

**iPoll** (1935-current) searchable public opinion polls and poll data at the question level from a wide variety of polling sources

**LGBT Life** full text of more than one hundred current or historically significant Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender journals, magazines and newspapers

**Periodicals Archive Online** (1800-1990s) -- hundreds of journals in humanities and social sciences

**ProQuest Congressional Publications** - Information about and by U.S. Congress, including hearings, reports, documents, legislative histories, and the Congressional Record.


**Social Explorer** current and historical US demographic data presented with a mapping tool that offers custom map output

**Online newspaper collections**

**19th Century US Newspapers** **(1801-1899)** Wide range of cities across the US

**Access Newspaper Archives** **(1660-2013)** Papers with smaller or moderate circulation from every state

**Factiva**

Search engine of current newspapers from across the world, in all languages (~1980s-current)

Selected important full-text historical newspapers:

- **The Chicago Defender** 1909-1975 African-American newspaper of national importance
- **Los Angeles Times** 1881-1992
- **New York Times** 1851-2012
Chicago Style Resources

Quick guide:  OWL – Online Writing Lab at Purdue
             http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/717/01/

             Main Ref Desk   Z253 .U69 2010
             (additional copies also available to check out)

Online:     http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/

Work with a Librarian

- **Sign up for a Research Appointment**
  30 minute consultation with a librarian about your research project: hone your topic, develop a thesis statement, work on identifying sources, and plan research strategies

- Contact me directly: Jen Starkey, jstarkey@oberlin.edu
- Contact any librarian: reference@oberlin.edu
- Drop in at the Research Desk
## Bizup’s BEAM Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of Source</th>
<th>Explanation</th>
<th>Example from literature</th>
<th>Example from sociology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>B</strong> Background sources</td>
<td>Any source used in a paper to provide context or background. Intended to be informative and uncontested.</td>
<td>Encyclopedia article on evangelism. Biography of the Brontes. Books or articles on the history/culture of a literary period. (Note: If you are analyzing bias or controversy in these sources, they become “exhibit” sources rather than “background”!</td>
<td>Current statistics on college-level drinking. News stories about college-age drinking. Current cultural artifacts about drinking (ads, movies).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>E</strong> Exhibit sources (particulars from exhibits become evidence)</td>
<td>Documents, data, field observations, lab findings, visual images, statistical arrays, natural phenomena, or other artifacts/objects that the writer analyzes. Sources on which you have exercised your own critical thinking to make an argument.</td>
<td>The text of Jane Evre (‘exhibit’). Contemporary cultural documents and reviews (exhibit). Quotations, paraphrases, or other textual citations from Jane Evre or contemporary documents (evidence).</td>
<td>Audiotapes of focus group interviews. Results of questionnaire data. Observations of gendered drinking behavior in bars or parties. “Results” section of an empirical report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong> Argument sources (typically peer reviewed academic articles or the work of other professional experts)</td>
<td>The conversation of critical views and relevant scholarship that you are joining.</td>
<td>Views of other scholars who have written about Jane’s marriage to Rochester. Typically, you identify a view that you are “pushing against” in some way.</td>
<td>“Literature review” section of empirical report. Summarizes previous research on gender socialization and college-age drinking behavior and aims to identify a gap in the current knowledge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M</strong> Method or ‘theory’ sources</td>
<td>References to the theoretical or methodological lens being used. These authors have usually not addressed your research question.</td>
<td>References to Foucault, Edward Said, Judith Butler, etc. Specific references to theory or method—feminism, new historicism, etc.</td>
<td>Competing sociological theories about gender socialization. Competing methodologies for conducting this research.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from Bizup, Joseph. “BEAM: A Rhetorical Vocabulary for Teaching Research-Based Writing” Rhetoric Review, 2008 27(1) 72-86.