Library Resources & Databases for Geography Graduate Students
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Outline

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/geog_grad

Part 1: Your proposal, your topics, and thinking critically about information

Part 2: What database should I use?

Part 3: Research Tools & Research Lifesavers and more
Your topic and where to start
Narrowing your topic

Interdisciplinary!!!!! What does it mean for your topic?

Developing your proposal
• Passion
• Testing the research waters
• Gaps
Narrowing your topic

Researching for your proposal
• Plan your research
• It will be challenging!
• You will be frustrated
• You will have more questions than answers!
Authority is constructed
Scholarship is a conversation
Information creation is a process
Research as inquiry
Be strategic in your research
Narrowing your topic

In a group of two, talk about your research topics.

Person 1 –
• Talk about 2 to 3 categories that covers your topic
• Choose 2 to 3 keywords for each category

SWITCH!

Person 2:
• Talk about 2 to 3 categories that covers your topic
• Choose 2 to 3 keywords for each category
“Access to information is a human right”

- policy
  (policy OR law) AND “freedom of speech”

- digital divide
  “digital divide” AND globalization AND technology

- implications: education, health, privacy
  information AND (education OR health) AND priv*
Advanced Searching Tips

Q: How do I search for a variant spelling of a term?
A: You can use a wildcard search, but the symbols you use depend upon the database!

- Usually, “?” or “!” symbol replaces a character:
  - Example:
    - licen?e = licence or license
    - ne?t = next or nest or neat

- Usually, “#” or “$” symbols are used for variant spellings with additional characters:
  - Example:
    - labo#r = labour or labor
    - labo!$r = labour or labor

Tip: Consult the search help section a database for wildcard symbols.
Advanced Searching Tips

Q: How do I search by Geographic Area

A: Depends upon the database!

Some databases index geography terms, such as Geobase, Georef, or Environment Complete

Some databases index place name terms as a “subject”, such as our library catalogue

WARNING
Some databases don’t index geographic locations. When you do a search for London, you may get publications published in London, or publications about London Ontario, or London England.

Example Databases: J-Stor
Databases
Library Catalogue

https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Search/Advanced
Finding Journal Articles at York Libraries

To identify journal articles on a specific topic, use a periodical database (also known as a "periodical index" or an "article database"). There are many different periodical databases available through York University Libraries. Some are subject-specific (e.g. Sociological Abstracts, PsycINFO), while others are multi-disciplinary (e.g. Expanded Academic ASAP, CBCA Complete).

For business articles, see Guide to Finding Business Articles.

STEPS:

1. Select an appropriate database
2. Search the database
3. Find the articles
4. Scholarly vs. popular articles
5. How to identify a peer-reviewed journal

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/journalarticles
General Databases

- Excellent for getting a broad sense of what is available, but not recommended for comprehensive searching on a topic
- Basic indexing of search terms but no subject specific “thesaurus/vocabularies”
- Good for getting direct access to journal articles
- May not contain abstracts for articles
- May not capture each journal for a discipline or topic

Top “General” Databases
- Scholars Portal Search
- jstor
- Web of Science
- Proquest Databases
- Google Scholar
Discipline Specific Databases

Strengths

• Goes beyond journal articles, some databases include monographs, conference publications
• Provides abstracts and deep “indexing” of publications
• Controlled vocabulary/thesaurus terms
• Excellent for comprehensive searching a specific topic as it relates to a discipline
• Excellent for advance searching methods
• Links to e-version of articles in other databases
Physical Geography & Related Discipline

- **Georef** (Physical Geography, Geology, Geomorphology..)
- **Geobase** (Physical Geography and Human Geography)
- **Biological Abstracts** (Ecology, Botany, Zoology, Forestry etc.
- **SciFinder** (Geochemistry, Soil Chemistry, Organic Chemistry etc.
- **Environment Complete** (Physical Geography, Human Geography, Environmental Assessment and Evaluation etc.)
Human/Cultural Geography Databases and Related Discipline Databases

- **GeoRef** (Physical Geography)
- **Geobase** (Physical and Cultural Geography)
- **Environment Complete** (Physical / Cultural Geography / Environmental Science & Studies & Policy)
- **Sociological Abstracts** (Cultural Geography / Methods / Sociology)
- **Urban Studies Abstracts** (Urban Studies/ Methods / Urban Geography)
- **International Political Science Abstracts** (Political Geography, Political Science)
Cited Reference Searching

Cited reference searching can tell you who has cited (referred to) previously published works. This allows you to:

- find more recent articles which update earlier research
- find responses to an article
- see how influential an article or book has been
- identify articles on the same topic as the original work

Cited Reference searching can be done in many databases. However, the three databases listed below are particularly effective for this purpose. They search for cited references in journal articles. Each database indexes (or covers) different journals or other pools of content, such as conference proceedings. As a result, if being comprehensive is important, you will want to consult all three.

Citation Searching Databases:

1. Web of Science
2. Scopus
3. Google Scholar

More about Cited Reference Searching:
http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/citedref
In the meantime..... think critically about access to information!

- Research done by universities, closed by licensing!
- Implications to local and global communities
- Case Study: Aaron Swartz
- Privacy VS Open Access
- Pharmaceuticals ↔ Physics
- Social media AND information AND communication
Graduate Student Library Guide

Library Resources & Databases for Geography Graduate Students, Fall 2018

http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/ask-services/graduate-student-support/
Welcome to York University's subject research guide for Geography. This guide will introduce you to the processes and resources needed to successfully complete your papers and assignments.

Getting Started
- Dictionaries & encyclopedias
- Books
- Country and Area Studies
- Gazetteers

Finding Articles
- Journal articles
- Newspaper articles

Finding Maps and Data
- Maps
- Geospatial Data
- Data and Statistics

Advanced Research
- Theses
- Associations & organizations

Writing Your Paper
- Compiling a Bibliography
- Zotero
- Mendeley

Related Subject Guides
- Environmental Studies
- Data & Statistics
- Geospatial Data
- Maps and Aerials

Online Tutorials
- Web Research Tutorial
- How to Find Journal Articles
- Finding Newspapers
- Guide to Finding Primary Sources
- Guide to Cited Reference Searching
- Guide to Book Reviews
- Finding Theses and Dissertations
- Find it @ York
- Assignment Planner

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/geography
Zotero: Bibliography / Citation Managers

Zotero : Saving Citations

Saving to Zotero: An Overview

There are three main ways that you can save to Zotero:

- Save items individually
- Save items from a list
- Save web pages

You can also create items manually and import citations and PDFs to enhance your collection.

Saving Individual Items

It's easy to save items such as books and articles to Zotero for later use or citation:

1. Go to a page about the item you want to save
   - For books, this can be an entry on it in the library catalog, Google Books, or an online bookstore
   - For articles, this is wherever you are accessing the article from
   - If you aren't currently reading the article, the page with information on it from a database such as ProQuest, JSTOR, or Google Scholar will also work.
2. Select the Save to Zotero button
   - This should show as a book icon for books or a page icon for articles
3. A box will appear in the lower right corner of the screen indicating that the item is being saved
4. The item should now appear in your Zotero library
   - Zotero will also try and save additional information for the item, including a PDF copy of the text.
   - If an arrow appears beside the item in the middle column, that means attachments such as these have been included.
   - Use the arrow to see what has been added.

Are you currently reading a PDF and wish to save it? Follow the steps above. If the item appears in Zotero with a PDF icon, you can add or retrieve its metadata.

Zotero Guide: http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/zotero
Effective Reading Strategies

Academic Reading

Reading in an academic context is different from everyday reading. Academic reading requires a more active, probing and recursive strategy than does recreational reading. It is an essential skill for completing a written assignment.

Reading strategically is integral to the process of understanding your topic, finding research materials, and developing your ideas.

Academic reading involves layers of:

- asking questions
- reflecting on relationships among parts of the text
- interpreting meaning
- making connections with other readings
- refining your topic and purpose
Proper citation is important for all scholarly work. Style guides, or style manuals, provide detailed information about how to use a particular citation style for various media formats. The above menu will take you to selections of citation style guides. The electronic guides do not include all the rules and formats of the citation style; the printed style guides have more rules and examples.

For a general introduction about creating bibliographies please consult the SPARK tutorial. The SPARK tutorial provides concise information on citing sources, citations and bibliographies, citation styles, citation management, annotated bibliographies, tips for bibliographies, and a resource called “What is common knowledge?”.

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/styleguides
Lifesaver: Creating Links to E-Resources

Creating Links to E-Resources

Electronic resources that are licensed by York University Libraries can be linked to in Moodle or other course web sites and do not need to be placed on library reserves.

Not all of York University’s licences permit copyright-protected content to be uploaded directly to Moodle or other Learning Management Systems. For more information on copyright please consult York’s Copyright & You.

To link to licensed resources in Moodle or other course web sites:

1. Check the license terms of use for the item in the library catalogue to ensure that you can link to it.
2. Locate the URL (a web address) that will remain active and usable over time, this is called a permalink (persistent or stable link). For sites on the public (non-licensed) web, this usually isn’t a problem because you can use the URL in the address bar of your web browser.
3. For electronic resources licensed by the library, you will have to modify the link (add the ezproxy: http://ezproxy.library.yorku.ca/login?url=) so that any off-campus user will be prompted to authenticate as a member of the York community in order to access the resource.

For further assistance, please contact your Subject Librarian or consult the following pages:

Linking to E-Books | Linking to Articles in Databases

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/eresources
Interlibrary Loan (RACER)

https://www.library.yorku.ca/web/ask-services/borrow-renew-return/racer-interlibrary-loan/

RACER Interlibrary Loan

Rapid Access to Collections by Electronic Requesting (RACER) is York University’s virtual union catalogue allowing users to seamlessly search and borrow items from all university libraries and collections across Ontario.

If you study at Keele Campus and want to borrow a book from Glendon Campus – or vice versa – please see Intercampus Borrowing.

To use RACER, York U students, faculty and staff must follow a two-step pre-registration process:
1. Enter Library User Authentication (Passport York)
2. Complete RACER End User Registration (click on Register First time only)

Before making an online request, please review policies & procedures - see below.
Additional Resources and More

• Sage Research Methods
  https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Record/muler1198207

• Library Data Services
  https://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/dataservices

• Open Scholarship @ York Libraries: Open Access Publishing, Author Rights, Research Data Management, and Digital Repositories

• Academic Integrity
Help!!

- Graduate Student Library Support Guide
- Live text chat with a Librarian
- Drop-In Assistance @ Steacie and Scott Library
- Drop-In @ Map Library with Rosa, Wednesdays 10-12 & Fridays, 2-4.
- Book an appointment with Rosa rorlan@yorku.ca.
- Map and Geospatial Data, email gislib@yorku.ca