UB Library Resources Explained



The **UB** Library website has a plethora of information, resources, and support available to you for any of your academic or professional needs. This presentation explores and explains some of the key facets of this resource.

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Databases Decoded

What databases would be best to use for my research topic? What are the most comprehensive databases?



Databases Decoded

Multi-Discipline Databases:

- Ebsco Host Hosts research databases, e-journals, magazine subscriptions, ebooks and discovery services across multiple subject areas. A great general search tool and useful in researching across different databases or subjects. Academic Search Complete is a useful database for a comprehensive view of scholarly articles.
- Gale Network of online databases across many disciplines. A
 great option for general searches or beginning your research.
 This can also be useful if you are researching across disciplines.
 Academic One File is a great database for multidisciplinary
 research.
- Google Scholar- A great starting point for research; user friendly; comprehensive across a wide range of topics

Databases Decoded

Specialized Databases:

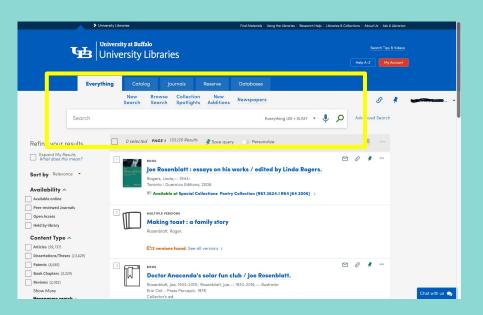
- Jstor digital library featuring academic journals, books and other primary sources in the humanities and social sciences.
 Useful to Arts/Humanities or Social Science majors.
- PubMed Search engine accessing primarily the MEDLINE database of references and abstracts on life sciences and biomedical topics. Great resource for students in the Sciences or Medical majors.

Understanding the Most Effective Search Bar Practices

How do I narrow my search words and phrases to view articles that are related to my topic?



UB Library Search Bar: Most Effective Practices

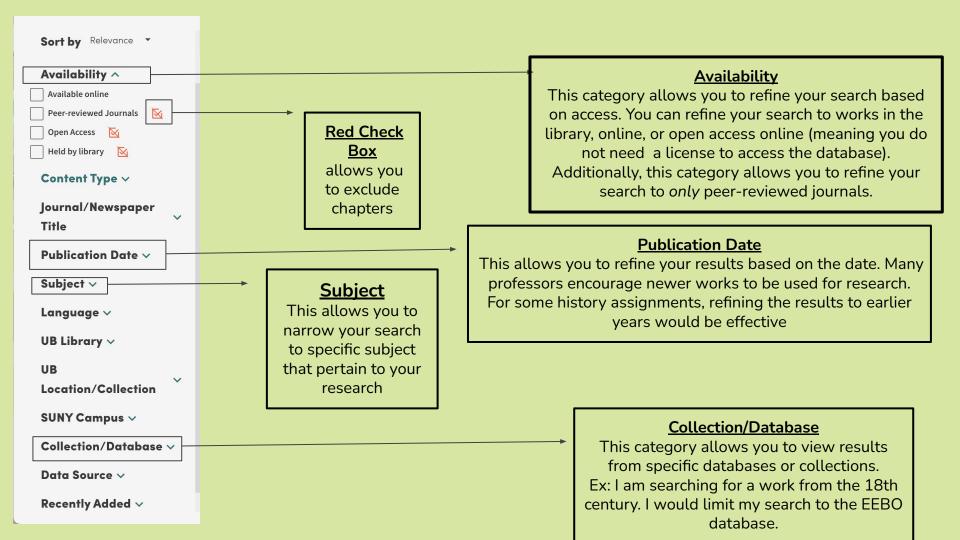


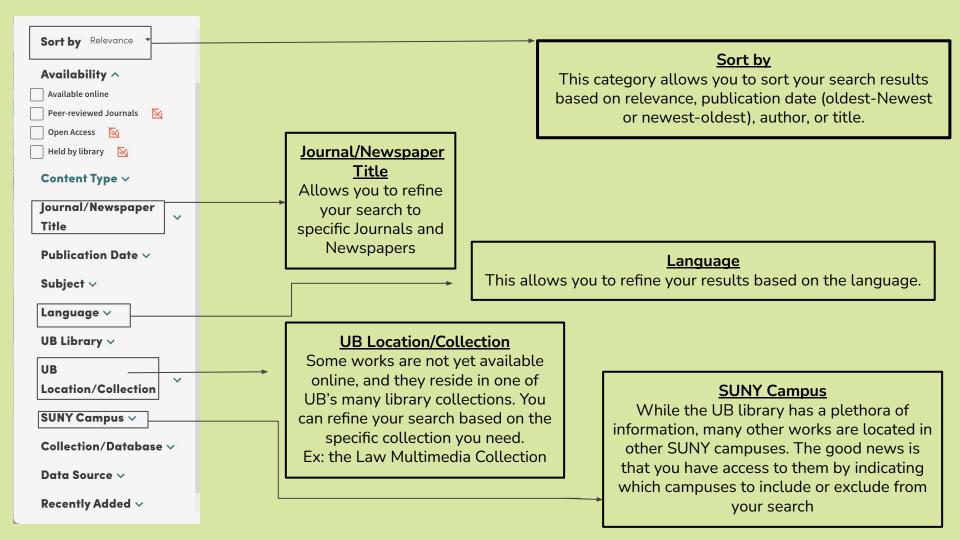
- If you are just beginning your research, the UB Library 'Everything' search box may be a great place to begin. This will provide a plethora of results that can be refined through the check boxes on the side panel
- When using the search bar, spend a few minutes considering what the keywords are for your project. These words should be related to the subject matter only and have great relevance to the topic at hand.
- You may have a few words or phrases you want to search for. For phrases, enclose them with quotations marks.
- For multiple keywords and phrases used in one search, use "AND"/"OR" to connect them in the search results
- Example: I am working on a project regarding the effects of social media. I would used the key words 'social media' AND 'mental health'
- Link to additional video resources on the library website: https://research.lib.buffalo.edu/onestopquide

Understanding How to Refine Search Results

How do I narrow results to fit my needs? How do I sort the results of my search?







Reliability and Relevance of Sources

How do you identify what works for your paper?

What are key things to look for?



Reliability and Relevance of Sources



- Identify keywords based on thesis or main ideas - command F to find in article
- Read the abstracts/tags of article of possible sources to identify if they are usable
- Skim articles for particular info or points necessary to your paper (do not have to read entire article)
- CRAP test Currency, Reliability, Authority, Purpose
- Read each subheading to get the lay of the paper and what they will discuss/where

- What are key things to look for?
 - Journal articles/scholarly source/peer-reviewed - higher chance of credibility
 - Date more modern sources will be more reliable/updated
 - Look to the author/publisher What are their
 credentials/qualifications? What is
 their area of expertise?
 - the reference page of the article find similar/reliable sources on given topic

Reading and Gathering Materials

How can I skim articles to determine if they are useful to my research?
How can I navigate digital textbooks?



Tips for Skimming Materials

Skimming Articles

- Hold off on an in-depth reading until you are sure the article will be useful
- Scan or skim read abstract/introduction/conclusion
- Know when to move on if article does not have what you need: spend no more than 15 minutes per article at this stage in the research process

Navigating Online Books

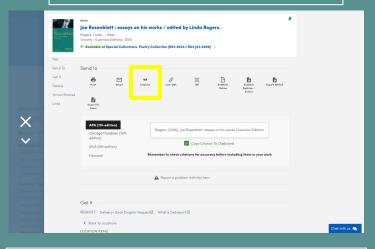
- Read through the introduction to the book; this will indicate the topics that will be discussed
- Use the table of contents to scan for relevant topics; many times, the database will offer summaries of the chapters.
- Scan the cited works for other sources.
- Spend no more than 20-30 minutes while scanning a book

Finding Citation References for materials found on the UB Library Website

How do you locate the work's reference? How do I ensure the citation is correct?



Finding Citations from the UB Library



Online sources/texts, found through the UB Library website, will provide the bibliography reference for each text in the most common formats (i.e. APA, MLA, and Chicago)

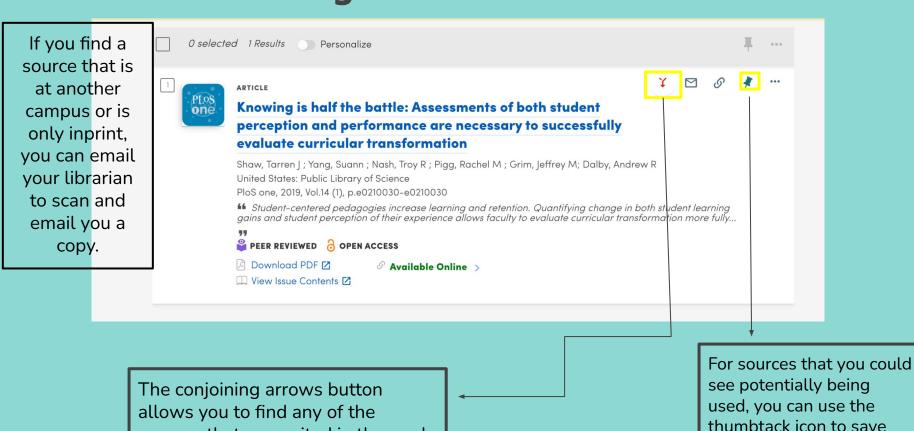
- By clicking on a work, one can access the reference citation by clicking on the citation tab (indicated by the yellow box).
- From there, you can copy the reference citation (in the format of your choosing) directly into your references page.
- Be sure to check that the citation given is correct. The following bullet points offer a generalized correct format for journal article reference citations:
 - MLA: Article Author's Last Name, First name. "Title of Article." *Title of Journal*, vol. number, issue no., date published, page range. *Title of Website*, DOI or URL.
 - APA: Author's last name, Author's first initial.
 Author's middle initial. (Year, Month Date published). Article title. Journal Name,
 Volume(Issue), page number(s).
 https://doi.org/—— (if available)
 - <u>Chicago:</u> Last name, First name. "Article Title."
 Journal Title volume number, issue number
 (Month year of publication): Page-page. DOI or URL.
 - A link to a great grammar and citations resource: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

Finding Related Sources

I found one great source, so how do I find others that are related to it?

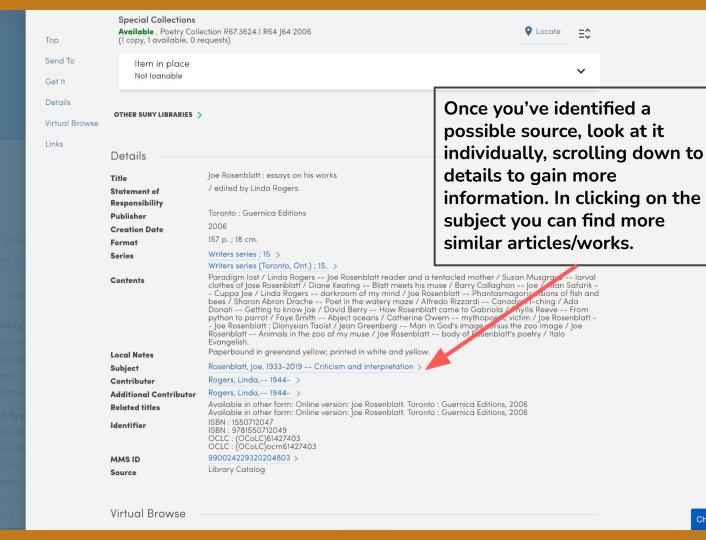


Finding Related Sources



the work for later viewing

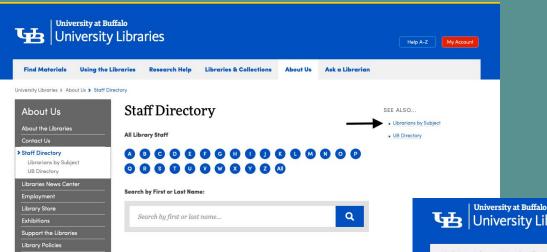
sources that were cited in the work.



Finding Support for Your Topic

Who can I contact for specific support on my research topic?

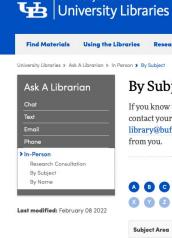




First, head the the staff directory and look to the "see also" tab on the right. Click to search librarians by subject.

In looking to librarians by subject you can find which librarian is responsible for material in your specific discipline. Use the A-Z list to find your librarian.

Visitor Information



By Subject

Research Help

Libraries & Collections

If you know the subject specialist in your area, you may schedule an appointment. Please feel free to contact your Subject Librarian directly, ask for assistance at a Library Services Desk, email library@buffalo.edu or chat with a librarian for additional assistance. We look forward to hearing from you.

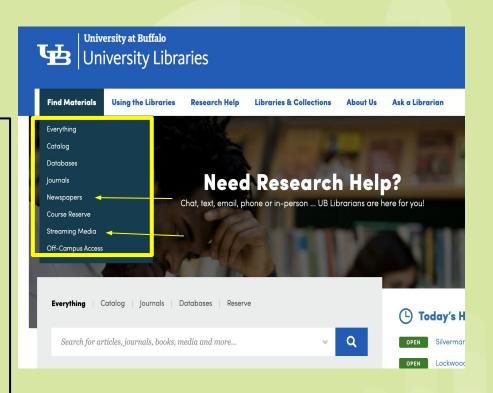


Subject Area Librarian Name African & African-American Studies Poremski, Molly American Studies Poremski, Molly

Other UB Library Services

Panopto

- video/streaming service offering films/documentaries/performances
- Can be useful for course content access/entertainment
- Streaming Media
 - Useful for film assignments or leisure
 - Performance recordings for majors in the arts
- Newspaper Subscriptions
 - Access to major newspapers that usually have a paywall
 - Can be used for sources
 - Useful for current events and assignments related to world events



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