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COMMUNICATION SCIENCE & DISORDERS

Scientific Literature Research Guide

www.augustana.edu/library

Research Help Desk 309-794-7206

**Outcomes:**

Become familiar with the EBSCO grouped databases, PubMed, Science Direct and Web of Science in order to locate relevant research articles.

Identify the characteristics and research articles.

Incorporate some advanced searching strategies in order to narrow your search to the best results.

**Develop a background on your topic:**

Use subject dictionaries and encyclopedias in the reference section R for Medicine and specifically RC in order to define key terms and develop a background knowledge on your topic. This makes searching easier and more efficient. Additional scholarly dictionaries and encyclopedieas can found under **Electronic Reference Materials**.

**Research & Review Articles:**

In the sciences, primary sources or peer-reviewed journals publish both review and research articles along with other types of articles. A **review** article is written by an expert summarizing many researchers work on a particular subject. They will have an extensive bibliography and are useful in giving an overview of a topic.

Research articles contain the original work of a researcher or group of researchers. It is very focused on a narrow topic and details the results of their experiment.

**Research articles can often to identified by components that form the acronym IMRAD –**

* **I**ntroduction – supply sufficient background to understand results of the present paper.
* **M**ethods & Materials – describe experimental design in enough detail for others to replicate and explain method in chronological order.
* **R**esults – provide overall view of experiment and present the data.
* **And D**iscussion – discuss, don’t repeat the results. State conclusions and evidence to support each conclusion clearly, and explain the significance of the experiment.

Sometimes a research article doesn’t have headings for each section, thus the IMRAD isn’t explicit. Be sure to ready the abstract and opening paragraphs carefully to identify whether an experiment is being done.

**Finding Full Text**

If you identify an article that is not linked to full-text, go to **Journal, Magazine & Newspaper Title Search** on the library homepage. This is also the place to look if you have a citation. If the journal is not listed under there,or we do not have access to the date you need, order the article through Interlibrary Loan on the library homepage.

**Searching Tips:**

Putting “autism spectrum disorder” in quotations looks for the exact phrase. This will narrow your search.

Putting (dementia or Alzheimer) in parentheses and using an **OR** in between each word says any of these words are acceptable. This broadens your search.

Replacing a letter of a word with an \* says that any letter or word ending is acceptable. This broadens your search

The default between each section in a database is AND which gives you only the results that include all the terms you used.

**Grouping EBSCO databases:**

You can use the set found under CSD, or make your own. Begin with Academic Search Complete and then Choose Databases. Choose subject specific databases relevant to your topic. I would suggest Academic Search Complete, CINAHL Complete, Communication & Mass Media Complete, ERIC, Family & Society Studies Worldwide, Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition, and PsycINFO.

**Tips for Science Direct:**

When you go to Science Direct, choose the tab Journals before you begin your search. We subscribe to about 1800 journals within this collection, with full text beginning in 1995 to present.

You are able to select the type of article by checking the appropriate box.

**Tips for Web of Science:**

Be sure to set up an account while you are on campus on a networked (hardwired) computer. This will allow you to be recognized through the proxy server when you attempt to access this database anywhere off campus.

Take a look at the Q ranking for the journal; this indicates how scientists in this field rate this journal. It is NOT a ranking of an individual article.

Web of Science is also the best place to see who is citing an article and provides links to abstracts. Refer back to **Finding Full Text** if it isn’t available with the abstract.

**Tips for RefWorks:**

Now is the time to become familiar with RefWorks, our bibliographic citation manager. It allows you to save citations from a handy icon on your favorites bar. Follow the link to Moodle from the right column on the library homepage to set up your account and install the icon and Write N Cite onto your computer.

**Final thoughts:**

In any database, pay attention to how the results are sorted; some do it by newest first, others by relevence. Change the sort to match your needs.

Use limiters, such as date range, found in the left frame of the database.

If you have questions, contact a librarian working at the Research Help Desk. Librarians are there until 10 pm Sunday through Thursday and are happy to help.

Have fun. Let me know if I can be of further help. ~ Connie