Research Strategies:
An Introduction to Finding, Searching and Evaluating Resources in Classics

CLST 401: Research Methods
2018
Learning Outcomes

During this presentation you will learn about the key online and print sources in Classics.

You will learn how to:

- Locate and use these resources to search for topics in Classics.
- Search for items in the Library catalogue and indexes and databases.
- Implement a variety of search strategies in order to find information effectively and efficiently.
- Critically evaluate sources.
- Cite sources and manage your results.
• The study of Classics consists of a vast **interdisciplinary** body of **scholarship** that includes history, archaeology, art, language, literature, science, religion, politics, and philosophy.

• Classical Studies is an **active field** responding to the emergence of new discoveries, interpretations, and theories.

• Many classical studies resources have moved **online**, enabling researchers to gain ready access to key primary source texts, a range of electronic resources, and digital images.
The **Queen's University Library homepage** is the gateway to the Library's collections and research tools.

Quick links to **Search Tools**, **Types of Information**, and library guides to **Subjects & Courses**.

**Summon**: the Library's Discovery Tool that allows you to search many of our electronic and print resources from a single search box.

**QCAT**: The Queen’s Library catalogue
The Classics Library Research Guide contains recommended research resources that support the study of Classics.

The Guide can be accessed from Search menu on upper right of the library homepage.

- Choose Research by Subject.
- Go to Guides.
- Bookmark this url: http://guides.library.queensu.ca/classical-studies
Steps to Effective Research

- Choose Your Topic
- Choose Keywords and Related Terms
- Create a Search Strategy
- Find Background Information
- Decide What Types of Resources are Needed
- Find Resources
  - Books (Electronic and Print)
  - Journal Articles
  - Visual Materials
  - Web
- Evaluate Your Sources
- Cite Your Sources
- Manage Your Sources
Starting Your Research

• Choose your topic.

• Ensure that your topic is not too broad. For example:
  Women in antiquity. *(Too broad)*

• A **better topic** would be:
  marriage in ancient Rome

**Narrow** your search further by **time period** or **region**. For example:
  marriage in the age of Augustus
Find Background Information

• A good way to begin research is to look at information sources that give you a basic or broad overview of a topic.

• Background information can be found in: subject-specific encyclopedias, dictionaries, biographical dictionaries, and handbooks.

• These resources will help you to:
  – **Focus** your topic.
  – Obtain a **broad overview** on your topic.
  – **Clarify** and **define** concepts.
  – Learn about **key issues** and **appropriate terminology** for your topic.
  – Identify names of people who are **authorities** in the field.
  – Find key **dates** and **events**.
  – Discover bibliographical **references** that lead to additional resources.
  – Provide **relevant keywords** that can be used when doing your research for books, articles, and websites.
Finding Background Information

- **Encyclopedias** and **handbooks** provide short overviews of a topic, theory, idea, concept or a person's work.

- Search **QCAT**, the library catalogue, for a complete list of titles, both print and online.

The **Classics Research Guide** contains links to encyclopedias and handbooks.

- Blackwell Companions to the Ancient World (series)
- Cambridge Ancient History
- Oxford Reference Online
Brill’s New Pauly: Encyclopedia of the Ancient World

- Brill’s New Pauly is the English version of an important German encyclopedia of the ancient world.
- It is divided into 2 sections:
  - Antiquity: Covers the ancient world of Greece and Rome.
  - The Classical Tradition: Covers the history of classical scholarship.
- Brill’s is available online.
- The interface is straightforward. Enter a term to search.
- Browse by clicking on the letters at the bottom of the main page.
- To narrow your search, apply filters such as date, place, subject and more.
- Results include bibliographies, books and journal articles and primary sources.
- Many entries have maps and illustrations.
Finding Background Information: Dictionaries

- **Oxford Classical Dictionary** (OCD)
  - Indispensable tool for beginning any research project.
  - Contains entries on Greek and Roman history, literature, myth, religion, linguistics, philosophy, law, science, art and archaeology, and topics in Near Eastern studies and late antiquity.
  - Entries have bibliographic references.
Companions are good for overviews on a topic and often include discussion of unsettled issues and debates on subjects.
Finding Background Information: Biographies

- Who's Who in Classical Mythology
- Who's Who in the Classical World
- Who's Who in the Greek World
- Who's Who in the Roman World
- Women of the Ancient World
Bibliographies

• Consult bibliographies to find a comprehensive list of sources on a specific topic or a selective list of key works on a topic.

• Search QCAT to find bibliographies on a topic.

• Look for the subdivision bibliography following a subject heading.

• For example:

  Women--greece--bibliography
• Oxford Bibliographies Online. Annotated bibliographies of the most recent and authoritative classical scholarship.
Bibliographies: TOCS-IN

• **TOCS-IN**: Tables of Contents of Journals of Interest to Classics
  – Tables of contents of the major journals of classical scholarship, both in text format and through a web search.
  – Convenient source for browsing the most current journal literature.
  – The results of a search are ordered alphabetically by journal name within each year, with the recently-added material appearing at the end in the order in which it came in.
  – Peer-reviewed.

**Tips to remember:**
– TOCS-IN searches titles only — not abstracts and not content.
– Use a period for a single-character wildcard.
– For best results, always check the pre-1992 and “in collections” boxes.
Keyword Searching

• Once you have chosen your topic and done some background research, **identify** the **main concepts, terms** and **keywords** that describe the topic.

• Brainstorm **alternate spellings, related terms, broader terms, or narrower terms.**

• You will **find additional keywords** in the subject terms assigned to books and scholarly journal articles and also in the specialized thesaurus terms that appear in some databases.
Search Preparation

**Topic:** Find information on the Pantheon.

- Once you have chosen your topic, **identify** the **main concepts, terms** and **keywords** that describe the topic.

  Ancient Rome Pantheon

- Think about other terms that could be used to describe the topic, including **synonyms, related terms**, or words and phrases that have similar meaning. For example:

  Rome
  
  Pantheon
  
  Ancient

  Roman
  
  Monuments
  
  Antiquity
Finding Resources

• Identify the types of resources you will be using.
  – For example, primary or secondary sources.

• To locate:
  – Books, use the library catalogue (QCAT) or Summon.
  – Journal articles, use a database or index or Summon (discovery tool).
  – Web pages, use a search engine (such as Google).
  – Visual material, use database, index or search engine.

Course materials (textbooks, readings, etc.) are often helpful.
Primary and Secondary Sources

• **Primary Sources** are firsthand accounts, original documents, or artifacts.

• **Secondary Sources** summarize, interpret, or analyze primary sources.

• The word "sources" in the subject heading can help you find primary sources.

• To find primary sources in the Queen’s Library, look for the subdivision *sources* following a subject heading.

Example: [Greece -- History -- To 146 B.C. -- Sources](#)
(Some) Online Collections of Primary Sources

- **Perseus Digital Library**
  - Online collection of ancient authors in the original Greek and Latin.
  - Includes texts and translations of many core ancient authors.
  - Contains primary and secondary sources for the study of ancient Greece and Rome.
  - Has an art and archaeology artifact browser.

- **Library of Latin Texts Online**
  - LLTO is the world’s leading database for Latin texts.
  - It contains texts from the beginning of Latin literature through to the texts of the Second Vatican Council. The complete works of writers such as Cicero, Virgil, Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great can be consulted.
Finding Books Using QCAT: The Library Catalogue

- **QCAT** is the Queen's Library Online Catalogue. Use QCAT to find print and electronic books.

- To find a specific known item, search by **title** or **author**.

- To find books by a particular author/person, search QCAT by **author**.

- To find books about a particular author/person, search QCAT by **subject heading**.
Examples of subject headings relating to Classical Studies:

Alexander the Great, 356-323 B.C.
Augustus Emperor of Rome, 63 B.C.-14 A.D.
Classical antiquities
Classical literature
Classical philology
Greece--Civilization--To 146 B.C.
Greece--History--281-416 B.C.
History, Ancient
Homer--Political and social views
Mythology, Roman
Women—History—To 500
Keyword Boolean Searching

• To find books on a **topic**, use a **keyword boolean** search.

• When you locate a relevant title, look at the **full record** for **subject headings** to search for additional materials.

Architecture, Roman Monuments – Rome Pantheon (Rome, Italy)

*The key to successful searching is not in the quantity of search results, but rather how relevant they are to the topic.*
Search Skills

• Use **AND** to combine search terms and **narrow** results
  monuments and ancient and Rome

• Use **OR** to **expand** search results
  monuments or buildings

• Use "**quotation marks**" for phrases
  “mausoleum of Hadrian”
  “Greek literature”

• Use * for **plural forms** and **variant word endings**
  myth*
  Retrieves myth, myths, mythology

**Nested searching:**
(Rome or Roman) and (buildings or monuments) and (ancient or antiquity)
• Queen’s Library uses the Library of Congress classification system.

• The study of classical antiquity is located in the classes **PA: Classical Philology and Literature**.

• **Editions of works in the original languages** are, as a rule, classified under call number **PA**, with some exceptions.

• **Translations of classical literary works** (e.g. poetry, drama) are classified under **PA**.

• However, **translations into English of "non-literary" works**, such as history, philosophy, and geography are usually classified according to their subject matter.
  
  – For example, translations of Plato and Aristotle will be found in the **B's**.
Classics Call Numbers

- Greek, Roman and General Mediterranean, history is located in DE, DF and DG

- Fine Arts in Antiquity, is located in the following call number range: N5320 – 5899

- Other material is distributed elsewhere in the classification system, according to the subject matter of the work.
Articles in scholarly journals are an important source of authoritative information, as they focus on a particular aspect of a topic and often contain the results of original academic research or experimentation.

They will contain the most current material.

Scholarly journals are referred to as "academic," "peer-reviewed," or "refereed" journals.

A peer-reviewed or refereed journal is one in which manuscripts submitted by authors are reviewed by experts on the topic before being accepted for publication in the journal.

Distinguishing Scholarly Journals from Other Periodicals
Selecting a Database

• To locate articles on your topic, use an index or a database.

• There are a number of journal article databases useful for research in Classics.

• Search more than one as they index different journals (as well as different types of resources).

• The Classics Subject Guide lists core and related recommended databases. Key databases or indexes include:

To view all databases associated with a particular discipline, go to: Search Tools: Databases.
L'Année Philologique

- **L’Année Philologique** is a specialized **bibliographic database** of scholarly works relating to all aspects of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations.
- Contains conference proceedings, theses and book reviews.
- Useful for finding books and articles on specific subjects or on particular ancient authors.
- Can be searched using range of criteria, e.g. modern author, ancient author, keyword, subject, etc.
- The results are listed in chronological order. You can change the sorting order by clicking on author, title, or year.
- You need to select the book icon to see the full details. Remember that **L’Année Philologique** is an index only; there is no full text.
- From the results screen, you can print or export your search results.
Databases

- **Gnomon Online**
  - Indexes journals in classical philology, ancient history, and archaeology.
  - A good supplement to *L'Annee Philologique* since it provides more recent citations in new Classics scholarship.

- **JSTOR**
  - Multi-disciplinary.
  - Back issues of the core journals in Humanities, Social Sciences.
  - Full text.
Other Useful Databases and Indexes

- **Multidisciplinary**
  - Academic Search Complete
  - Arts and Humanities Citation Index
  - JSTOR

- **Archaeology**
  - DYABOLA Archaeology Databases

- **Literature and Drama**
  - MLA International Bibliography

- **Philosophy**
  - Philosopher's Index
Citation Abbreviations

• There are hundreds of journals in classics!

• *L’année philologique* has a downloadable PDF list of journal abbreviations which will assist you to identify abbreviations in bibliographies.

• To download the PDF navigate to the homepage and look for the link called **List of Journal Abbreviations**.

• The *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, also has an **Abbreviations List**.

• American Journal of Archaeology Online
Searching for a Specific Article?

• To find articles that you want to locate from a reference list or bibliography go to: **Search Tools: Journals**.
What is a Citation Search?

- **Citation searching**, also known as **cited reference searching**, is a search for other sources (for example articles or books) that have made reference to a particular book, article, or author.

- A citation search will:
  - Show you **who** has mentioned your article or book, **where**, and **how many times**.
  - Allow you to **locate** articles or books that cite your known reference in their bibliographies.
  - Help you **find similar research**.

Go to the Library’s [Citation Searching Guide](#) for more information.
Finding Images

- **ARTstor**
  - Searchable database of digital images. ARTstor covers many time periods and a broad range of world cultures in many mediums.
  - Images have useful associated information.
  - Using these images for educational (teaching & research) purposes is legal.

- **Perseus Art and Artifact Browser**
  - Perseus’ *Art and Archaeology Artifact* database is a tool for finding images, general information, and bibliography about buildings, coins, gems, sculptures, sites, and vases in Greek and Roman antiquity.
  - Useful starting point.
  - Limited in scope.

**Note:** Provide methodical attribution for each image. For example, as applicable, include name/description of the object; ancient provenance; modern location; date; photo credit.
Attic Red-figure pelike by Polygnotos: Two Women, One Playing a Lyre, c. 450–c. 425 BC (Paris, Musée du Louvre); photo credit: Erich Lessing/Art Resource, NY
Maps and Atlases

- **Ancient World Mapping Center**

- **Historical Atlas of the Ancient World.**
  – Supplemental Volume of *Brill’s New Pauly.*
Bryn Mawr Classical Review (BMCR)

- Publishes timely open-access, peer-reviewed reviews of current scholarly work in the field of Classical Studies.
- This site is the authoritative archive of BMCR's publication, from 1990 to the present.
Google Scholar

• **Google Scholar:**
  – Allows you to search across a wide range of academic literature in many disciplines. It draws on information from journal publishers, university repositories, and other websites that it has identified as scholarly.
  – Enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and technical reports.

• Many of the resources found in Google Scholar are available free on the Web or through the Library’s paid subscriptions.

Search Google Scholar through a Queen’s NetID login in order to see the full text of books, articles, etc.
• Google Scholar can be problematic in many humanities disciplines including Classics.
  – Many relevant subject-specific journals are not indexed in Google.
  – Non-Classics journals appear in the search results.
  – Results can be from non specialists or specialists in unrelated fields. This matters in how the author approaches a research question and the author’s familiarity with ancient evidence.

• Google bases the results not on how useful they might be to your project, but (among other things) on how many times the article was cited.
Using Google

• Searching **Google** can be overwhelming due to the vast amount of information and lack of consistent organization across websites. Apply the same search strategies as you did for finding information in library databases.
  – The more search terms you enter, the more focused and specific your results will be.
  – Google’s **Advanced Search** gives you more control over what results Google return.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This exact word or phrase</td>
<td>Forces a specific word order. Put exact words in quotes.</td>
<td>“mausoleum of hadrian”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any of these words</td>
<td>Type OR between all the words you want.</td>
<td>Rome or Roman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site or domain</td>
<td>Search one site or limit your results to a domain like .edu, .org or .gov</td>
<td>“roman antiquity” site:edu</td>
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Evaluating Sources

• Evaluating your sources is a crucial step in the research process.

• Anyone can create a webpage so it is particularly important to analyze and assess information that you find on the Internet before using it in a research paper.

Critically evaluating the information you find is central to successful academic research.
Evaluating Sources

• There are a number of approaches for evaluating information on the Internet.

• **Evaluation criteria includes:**
  – **Currency:** The timeliness of the information.
  – **Relevance:** The depth and importance of the information.
  – **Authority:** The source of the information.
  – **Accuracy:** The reliability of the information.
  – **Purpose:** The possible bias in the information.

[Evaluating Web Sources](#)
What is a Citation?

- A citation is a reference to a source that enables readers to identify it.
- Citations usually include the author, title, name of book or journal and volume (for articles) publisher, date and other identifying information.

For example:


Portland State University Library shows how to read a citation to determine if it is a book, book chapter or journal article.
Citing Sources

• **Citing sources** is an important part of your research as it:
  – Documents what sources you have used in writing your paper;
  – Gives credit to an author's work and acknowledge their ideas;
  – Provides your instructor with information needed to identify and retrieve the cited sources; and
  – Avoids plagiarism.

• There are many different ways to cite sources and format bibliographies in essays in the Classics.

• The Library has print and electronic copies of various style guides.
  – For example: **Chicago Style**
Citation Managers

- **Citation Management** tools allow a user to collect, organize and retrieve citations and insert properly formatted footnotes or citations into a paper.

- These tools also create a formatted bibliography using one's preferred citation style.

- There are many different citation managers available including: Zotero, EndNote, and Mendeley.

Queen's Library guide to citation managers
Questions?

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