Astronomy Infoguide
http://infoguides.gmu.edu/astronomy

Welcome!

Researching black holes? Need information about super nova? As the Astronomy librarian, I can help you find the best resources for your research. Need help? Call or e-mail me. I look forward to working with you!

Margaret Lam, Liaison Librarian, George Mason University Libraries

Note: This site is best viewed with Firefox.

Core Databases

- The SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System
  The SAO/NASA Astrophysics Data System (ADS) is a Digital Library portal for researchers in Astronomy and Physics, operated by the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory (SAO) under a NASA grant. The ADS maintains three bibliographic databases containing more than 8.9 million records: Astronomy and Astrophysics, Physics, and arXiv e-print.

- ADS Labs Search
  ADS Labs currently features three different interfaces that allow you to search, explore and visualize the contents of its 10 million bibliographic records and its 2.6 million full-text documents.

- INSPEC
  INSPEC includes bibliographic citations and indexed abstracts from publications in the fields of physics, astronomy, astrophysics, and many more.
Information Cycle

http://www.library.illinois.edu/ugl/howdoi/informationcycle.html

Where Innovation Is Tradition
## Scholarly vs. Popular

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scholarly</th>
<th>Popular</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Specialized audience</td>
<td>General Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uses language specific to the field</td>
<td>Uses everyday language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Has many references</td>
<td>Hardly any references</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peer-reviewed</td>
<td>Not peer-reviewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Example: Astronomy &amp; Astrophysics</td>
<td>Example: Time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example: Astronomy & Astrophysics

Example: Time
Research Process

Where to search
  • Catalog
  • Research Databases – Start with the ones in the infoguide

How to search
  • Keyword vs. Subject
  • Operators: AND, OR
  • Synonyms, Truncation, Quotation marks

How to get it
  • Print/Electronic access

Evaluate what you found: Is it any good?
Mason Catalog

All GMU holdings are listed in the library catalog:

- Fenwick Library
- Johnson Center Library
- Arlington Campus Library
- Prince William Campus Library
- GMU Law Library

The Document Delivery Service provides delivery of books and articles owned by the GMU libraries.
The ALADIN Catalog provides access to the resources in the WRLC libraries.

**WRLC Libraries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>American University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CU</td>
<td>Catholic University of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>University of the District of Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HU</td>
<td>Howard University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>Gallaudet University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GW</td>
<td>George Washington University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GT</td>
<td>Georgetown University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MU</td>
<td>Marymount University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Consortium Loan Service (CLS) provides delivery of books and articles owned by the WRLC libraries.
Search Strategies

Keyword searches

• Simplest search
  – Matches the typed search words in the record
  – May not always get what you had in mind
  • Example: crane

Wanted

Not Wanted
Search Strategies

Subject searches

• Matches the ideas represented by the words

• Controlled Vocabulary
  – Think of Starbucks
    • Small = Tall
    • Medium = Grande
    • Large = Venti
    • Extra Large = Trenta
Search Strategies

Use AND operator

period

period AND variable star

variable star
Search Strategies

Use quotation marks to retrieve exact phrases
  • “planet detection”

Use similar terms with the OR operator
  • “galaxy” OR “galactic”

Use wildcard character to shorten the search term
  • gravit*
    – gravity
    – gravitation
    – gravitational
Search Strategies

Use the bibliography to find more related sources for your topic
How to get it

**Mason Link+**
- Provides a direct link to access the article (most of the time)

PDF/Full Text  HTML/Full Text

E-journal Finder
- Check if Mason libraries have a electronic subscription

Catalog
- Check if Mason libraries have a print subscription

Washington Research Library Consortium (WRLC)
- Using the ALADIN catalog, check if partner university libraries have access
- Need to submit a Consortium Loan Service (CLS) request

Interlibrary Loan (ILL)
- If Mason libraries and WRLC don’t have it, submit an ILL request
Evaluate what you found

Does it pass the CRAAP test?

- **Currency**
- **Relevance**
- **Authority**
- **Accuracy**
- **Purpose**
Is this journal peer-reviewed?

Check the journal’s homepage
Check in this database:
   UlrichWebs Global Serials Directory
Citation Management

Citations & Bibliographies

- Tell others from where you got your information
- Cite properly to avoid accidental plagiarism
Citation Management

http://infoguides.gmu.edu/citationmanagement

Zotero [zoh-TAIR-oh] is a free, easy-to-use tool to help you collect, organize, cite, and share your research sources. It lives right where you do your work—in the web browser itself.

Zotero is the only research tool that automatically senses content, allowing you to add it to your personal library with a single click. Whether you're searching for a preprint on arXiv.org, a journal article from JSTOR, a news story from the New York Times, or a book from your university library catalog, Zotero has you covered with support for thousands of sites.

Zotero collects all your research in a single, searchable interface. You can add PDFs, images, audio and video files, snapshots of web pages, and really anything else. Zotero automatically indexes the full-text content of your library, enabling you to find exactly what you're looking for with just a few keystrokes.

Get Involved

Zotero would not be the dynamic, responsive tool it is today without the tireless efforts of all our community members. Find out how to get involved.

http://www.zotero.org/
Writing Center Resources

http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/

Documenting Sources

Avoiding Plagiarism

Plagiarism

- St. Martin’s Tutorial on Avoiding Plagiarism
- WSU Plagiarism Information Site

Documenting Sources

Evaluating, Documenting, and Citing Resources Practice Packet
How and When to Quote, Summarize, and Paraphrase
Paraphrase, Summary, and Analysis
Annotated Bibliographies
How to Cite PowerPoint and other Media
- Diana Hacker’s Guide to Citation Styles
- Diana Hacker’s Guide to Evaluating Sources
- George Mason’s Citation Quickstart Guide
APA Style Guide
- APA Style Guide at OWL at Purdue
- APA’s Website
MLA Style Guide
- MLA’s Website
Chicago Style Guide
- Chicago’s Website
Turabian Style Guide
CSE Citation Style QuickGuide
- Diana Hacker’s Online Guide to Research
- Writing an Abstract
DO NOT WAIT Until THE DAY BEFORE Your ASSIGNMENT Is DUE To CONTACT Your LIBRARIAN