Social Work 554C (003)
Library Tutorial
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OUTLINE FOR TODAY’S SESSION

- Review of library services and resources for graduate students
- Subject/Course Guides – SOWK, SOWK 554c, Literature Review etc.
- The literature review
- Finding relevant material for your literature review
- Evaluating your sources
- Searching techniques
LIBRARY GUIDES

• Library homepage: [www.library.ubc.ca](http://www.library.ubc.ca)

• Social Work 554C Course Guide: [bit.ly/2x5iDt7](https://bit.ly/2x5iDt7)


RESEARCH COMMONS, KOERNER LIBRARY

Graduate Student Workshop Series

- Thesis formatting support
- Literature review and systematic review workshops
- SPSS & NVivo support
- RefWorks, Mendeley and Zotero workshops

Research Commons homepage: bit.ly/2p2eHWp
A LITERATURE REVIEW IS USED TO:

• Learn more about the history, origin and the scope of the research problem
• Learn what’s already been investigated (highlights key findings)
• Establish the context of the topic/problem
• Rationalize the significance of the topic/problem
• Learn what methodologies have been successful and unsuccessful
• Enhance and acquiring subject vocabulary
• Identify and build on the gaps in knowledge
• Avoid duplication of work
EVALUATION CRITERIA

- Author, institution affiliation
- Journal/Publisher
- Abstract, bibliography
- Purpose (Persuasion? Unbiased?)
- Intended audience
- Domain of url (.edu, gov.ca, personal homepage)
- Accuracy
- Currency
- Content comprehensive

Evaluating Information Sources: http://guides.library.ubc.ca/EvaluatingSources
WHERE TO SEARCH?

- Library homepage
- Google Scholar
- Reference sources
- Subject specific databases
- Hand searching specific journals (cf. Grinnell & Unrau p. 170-71)
- Grey literature and government information
- Theses & dissertations
- Specialized bibliographies
KEEPING TRACK OF YOUR SEARCHES

Some key fields to include:

- Database Name
- Date of your Search
- Search Terms
- Limits/Filters
- Database Terminology
- Search Results & Comments

Consider attending a Citation Management Workshop at the Research Commons!
EFFECTIVE WAYS OF SEARCHING

• Keyword searching

• Subject specific vocabulary

• Controlled vocabularies

• And, Or, Not (Boolean) ; truncation (?) ; wildcard (*)

• Citation chaining
HOW CAN REFERENCE SOURCES HELP YOU?

• Provide an overview of a topic
• Introduce you to seminal works and authors
• Bibliography and suggested further readings

• *Encyclopedia of Social Work* (NASW & OUP)
• Specialized dictionaries: *Dictionary of Social Work and Social Care* (OUP)
• Specialized handbooks: *Handbook of Evidence Based Practices in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities* (Springer)
EXERCISE, 10 MINUTES

In pairs, use the Library’s General Search and Google Scholar to start exploring the following topic:

*I’m interested in permanency planning for children and youth in foster care.*

- Compare search results, note any unique features and be prepared to report back your findings.
DATABASE SEARCHING ACTIVITY, 30 MINUTES

• In groups of 4, search your assigned database for literature on the permanency planning and foster care topic (10 minutes)

  • Social Services Abstracts
  • Social Work Abstracts
  • PsycInfo
  • Web of Science

• Examine search results
• Explore the database features (limiters, filters, subject headings, etc.).
• Be prepared to discuss your group’s findings (2-3 minutes per group)
DATABASES FOR GREY LIT. & GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

- **DesLibris** Database (formerly Canadian Public Policy Collection)
- **PsycEXTRA**: Includes technical, annual and government reports, conference papers, newsletters, magazines, newspapers. Produced by APA.
- **PAIS Index**: Index to public/social policy literature
- **Open Grey** (European materials)
- **CHODARR** (Community Health Online Digital Archive & Research Resource). Emphasis on Vancouver area resources and organizations

- Theses and Dissertations
  - **cIRcle**, UBC’s Institutional Repository
  - **ProQuest Digital Dissertations & Theses**
Thank you

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