



## Library searches, e-journals, and Google Scholar



Presented by Dr. Julie Owen  
NCLC 203: Inquiry to Action  
George Mason University  
Spring 2011

## Learning Goals for this Session

- Using GMU Library search functions to find books, databases, and journals
- Locating articles in e-journals and how to access/download them
- Using Google Scholar to find article
- Connections to Praxis and RING assignment



## Using Books in Research: Advantages & Disadvantages

### Advantages

- Synthesize research from multiple sources
- Can provide essential background over time and geography
- Often summarize key arguments of theoretical approaches to a specific field
- Good source of citations for relevant authors and other publications


### Disadvantages

- Information may be out of date because of time-to-publication issues (Prof Smith says it is important to "balance depth with topicality")
- May present limited scope or narrow viewpoint about an issue
- Need to check legitimacy of the press (self-publication issues)

## http://library.gmu.edu



## Sample search...



#	Title Link	Library Status
1	Economic rights in Canada and the United States / edited by Rhonda E. Howard-Hassman and Charles E. Welch, Jr.	GM 2006
1.1	Library Location: Patrick Stacks Call Number: JC209.C2 E38 2006 Status: Not Checked Out	
2	Educating homeless children and adolescents : making policy and practice / James H. Strang, editor.	GM 1992
2.1	Library Location: Johnson Center Stacks Call Number: L3764.J2 E38 1992 Status: Not Checked Out	
3	Encyclopedia of the American Constitution / edited by Leonard W. Levy and Kenneth S. Galt.	GM 2000
3.1	Library Location: Law Library - Reference 4th Floor Call Number: KF424 E33 2000 Status: Multiple Item Available	
4	Economic Services in Virginia... a report / prepared by the Department for Children and the Council on the Status of Women.	GM 1989
4.1	Library Location: Patrick Stacks Document - State Call Number: HV432 V3.E8 1989 Status: Not Checked Out	
5	Homelessness in America / edited by Robert Hartmann, Nicholas.	GM 2008
5.1	Library Location: Prince William Campus Stacks Call Number: HV432 H6517 2008 Status: Multiple Item Available	
6	Nursing and health care for the homeless / edited by Joann K. Hunter.	GM 1991
6.1	Library Location: Patrick Stacks Call Number: RT768 H6517 1991 Status: Not Checked Out	
7	Challenged homeless... a report on homeless persons sheltered in the Commonwealth / prepared by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.	GM 1997
7.1	Library Location: Patrick Stacks Document - State Call Number: HV432 V3.E7 1997 Status: Not Checked Out	

## Tips for library searches...

- Use Boolean searches (and, or, not) to expand or narrow your key search terms
- TRACK the search terms you use for use elsewhere or to replicate the search
- Use both "quick limits" (e.g., after 2000) "set limits" (e.g., English) feature to narrow search results
- Send selected records to email, cell phone, print
- Use "request" to recall a source
- IM with a librarian for help

<http://library.gmu.edu/education/students/tutorials.html>

## Helpful Tutorials...

- What is a scholarly article???  
<http://www.lib.ncsu.edu/tutorials/scholarly-articles/>
- How to find the full text of an article...  
<http://library.gmu.edu/education/students/tutorials.html>
- Requesting an item through Inter-Library Loan

## Searching E-Journals

## What is Google scholar??

## Using Library Links...

## Tips for Google scholar...

- Great place to read article abstracts before you search Mason databases for full-text articles (or use Library Links to connect Mason databases to Google Scholar)
- Beware of relying on only excerpts (one chapter, or a few pages) of a source found through Google scholar...this can distort your argument
- Always check date of publication – many full-text sources available on Google scholar are older...
- Beware of shared documents from unpublished sources - if you cannot find the citation information, be wary!

## Important for PRAXIS!!!

- Many links to journal articles retrieved through GMU e-journals AND Google Scholar are dynamic links...meaning they CHANGE every time you access the article.
- So what should you do???
  - COPY the full citation!
  - Save the article ("save as pdf") on your desktop or thumb drive.
- ***NCLC 203 faculty will only accept full-text versions of articles for your Praxis assignment, not links...***