

## Discerning Among Source Types

Below you will see examples of database results and citations that you might see when you are conducting research. It is important for you to be able to identify sources by type so you know that they are appropriate and acceptable to use for your research projects. Some simple things to remember about reading citations:

- A book citation includes author(s), title (and subtitle), city of publication, publisher, and date of publication. Other necessary elements, if applicable, include editor, translator, and edition.
- An article citation includes author(s), title (and subtitle) of the article, title of the journal/magazine, date of publication, volume/issue number, and page numbers.

See if you can correctly identify source types from the information provided below.

What type of source is this?

- A book
- A journal
- A journal article
- A newspaper article
- Something else

How do you know?

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### Writing to Learn: Benefits and Limitations

**Author(s):** Fry, Sara Winstead; Villagomez, Amanda

**Source:** College Teaching, v60 n4 p170-175 2012. 6 pp.

**Peer Reviewed:** Yes

**ISSN:** 8756-7555

**Descriptors:** Feedback (Response), Course Content, Writing (Composition), Writing Instruction, Comparative Analysis, Pretests Posttests, Metacognition, Scores, Education Majors, Experimental Groups, Control Groups, Likert Scales, College Students, Student Attitudes, Writing Skills, Academic Achievement, Mixed Methods Research, Quasiexperimental Design, Higher Education, Elementary Education, Higher Education

**Abstract:** Writing to learn is a pedagogical approach grounded in the belief that the reasoning required to write about a topic or concept will help students gain understanding. However, research indicates that the impact writing has on student learning depends on context. Using a mixed-method, quasi-experimental, repeated measures design, we examined how embedding writing-to-learn pedagogy in a required college course impacted students' learning as well as their perceptions of writing to learn. Our quantitative

What type of source is this?

- A book
- A journal
- A journal article
- A newspaper article
- Something else

How do you know?

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### The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.



Review

By: Scannell, Kate. Journal of Legal Medicine. Oct-Dec2010, Vol. 31 Issue 4, p493-498. 6p. DOI: 10.1080/01947648.2010.535438.

**Subjects:** BOOKS -- Reviews; CELL death; RESEARCH -- Moral & ethical aspects; RESEARCH; RESEARCH subjects (Persons); SAFETY measures



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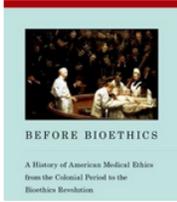
**What type of source is this?**

- A book
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- A newspaper article
- Something else

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

**Item Details**

Mark



**Item Information** [A Look Inside](#) [Catalog Record](#)

**Title** Before bioethics : a history of American medical ethics from the colonial period to the bioethics revolution

**Author** Baker, Robert, 1937- author.

**Publisher:** Oxford University Press,

**Pub date:** [2013]

**Pages:** xi, 476 pages ;

**ISBN:** 9780199774111

**What type of source is this?**

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- Something else

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

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**College English, Vol. 76, No. 6, July 2014**

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**What type of source is this?**

- A book
- A journal
- A journal article
- A newspaper article
- Something else

How do you know? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Erez, Miriam. "One Woman's Journey: Rhythms of an Academic's Life." *Rhythms of Academic Life: Personal Accounts of Careers in Academia*. Ed. Peter J. Frost. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1996. Print.

## Generating Topic-based Keywords, Writing Citations, Shaping a Research Strategy

Search for articles pertaining to a topic you might choose for your scientific paper (flying buttresses on gothic cathedrals, reinforced/prestressed concrete in skyscrapers, tuned mass dampers for wind damping in tall buildings, elevator safety and speed development to allow multi-story buildings) in one of the following databases:

- JumpStart
- General Science Full Text
- Web of Science
- Applied Science [& Technology Full Text](#)
- JSTOR

**NOTE:** You may need to start off your search quite broadly.

Which database did you choose?: \_\_\_\_\_

How many results did you get? : \_\_\_\_\_

Do at least some of the results of the first page of returned items seem relevant to your chosen topic?

List the titles of two articles that sound promising:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do we have access to these articles? \_\_\_\_\_

List two options that this database provides to change or narrow your search:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Try searching in one of the other listed databases.

Which database did you choose?: \_\_\_\_\_

How many results did you get? : \_\_\_\_\_

Do your results look better (more relevant)? Worse? : \_\_\_\_\_

List two options that this database provides to change or narrow your search:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List the titles of two articles that sound promising:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do we have access to these articles? \_\_\_\_\_

Now, prepare a bibliography of your four articles in MLA format, then print it out and attach it to this assignment. Make sure to check your punctuation and formatting!



## Shaping a Research Strategy/Finding Relevant Sources/Evaluating Sources

- Perform a general keyword search in JumpStart on the term “Hispanic Cinema.” Write down up to three problems with the results. Indicate specific problems with the results.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- Modify your search until the results improve, and write down at least three techniques you used that successfully improved the results.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- Look up one of the following topics in the web search engine or library database indicated below and describe the results of your searches as prompted.

### Topics:

- Chilean political prisoners
- Unites States’ relations with Puerto Rico
- The School of the Americas – political violence and military training

Web Search Engine or Library Database	How did you enter your search? (Be exact)	# of Hits	What Types of Materials Did You Find? (e.g., web pages, periodical articles, studies; from which domain type)
Google			
JumpStart			
JStor			

### The Best Sources Found

Source	Description

## Finding Sources, Evaluating Sources, and Citing

Goal: Use the library's resources to expand and update your knowledge about **Larry McAfee** by finding 4 sources about his case and answering the questions below. One source must be from a **scholarly journal** (try *JumpStart*), one from a **non-scholarly magazine** (try *Reader's Guide Full Text* and/or *Reader's Guide Retrospective*), and one from a **newspaper** (try *Newspaper Source Plus*) and one from *Google*.

Provide a citation in the MLA Style:

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What type of source is this?

- Scholarly article
- Non-scholarly article
- Newspaper article
- Google/Website

What information about Larry McAfee does this source provide that the Pence textbook does not?

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What information about Larry McAfee does this source provide that your other sources do not?

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(These questions are repeated 3 times.)

## Information Literacy Components: Evaluating Websites

Find a website with information on one of the following subjects and answer all of the questions in complete sentences.

Subjects:

- Spanish-American War, 1898
- Hispanic documentaries
- The School of the Americas – political violence and military training
- One of the controversial figures: Hugo Chavez, Evo Morales or Fidel Castro

Accuracy:

1. Who wrote the page and how can you contact the author?
2. How is this person qualified to write this document?

Authority:

3. What institution publishes and maintains this website?
4. Is the publisher benefiting economically from this site and how can you tell?
5. Is there a history of the organization/company, or a mission statement? If so, summarize.

Objectivity:

6. What are the stated goals of this page and are they met?
7. Why was this page written and for whom?

Currency:

8. When was the site produced and when was it last updated?
9. Are there any links that are broken or do not work?

Your Conclusion:

10. Would this page would be an appropriate source for a research project? Briefly, explain why or why not.

## How to do a Known Item Search, Source Analysis

### Digital & Physical Primary Source Exercises

*Note: There were 8 versions of this exercise. Individual students completed their assigned exercise in advance, and then work in pairs to look at the relevant related print source in the Archives during class time. Students are exposed to both online and print historical primary sources and the historical “conversation”, as they read both an essay and the publication that was being commented on (the cited source). This also illustrates the practical relevance of cited reference in allowing one to trace the history of an argument.*

**Instructions: Complete your assigned exercise, and bring your answers with you to the Archives on Friday.**

**Group 6: Find this document in the *Making of the Modern World* database:**

*Essays on the principles of charitable institutions, being an attempt to ascertain what are the plans best adapted to improve the physical and moral condition of the lower orders in England.* London, 1836. *The Making of The Modern World*. Web. 22 Oct. 2013.

Essay III discusses the “external causes of poverty which affect particular classes in a nation, and at particular periods”. What are some of the “external causes” that are discussed?

Possible answer: war, monopolies, free trade, improvements in machinery, changes in fashion, consolidation of farms, enclosure of waste lands

The author references an article in *American Quarterly Review* on the “pauper system” of Massachusetts. What is the year of that reference?

Answer: 1833

**On Friday in the Archives you will look at the *American Quarterly Review* article cited, and at that time you will answer these questions:**

*Print Source: Extracts from the Information received by His Majesty's Commissioners, as to the Administration and Operation of the Poor Laws. The American Quarterly Review 14.27 (Sep 1, 1833): 66.*

- a) What arguments are given against establishing “a system of relief by compulsory public provision for the poor”? (starting at the bottom of pg. 66)

Answer: It reduces feelings of charity by the giver, it increases sense of entitlement and dependency by the receiver, it leads to increases “pauperism”, it cannot be restricted to “deserving objects”, it reduces the incentive to work

- b) How does the experience of reading an original volume of *American Quarterly Review* compare to the experience of using the online digitized works in the *Making of the Modern World* database?

## Shaping a Research Strategy, Exploring Library Resources

### Library catalog



Search for your topic in the library catalog and limit the location to **Oversized Book Section, upper level**. Write down one title that looks promising.

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Click on New Search. Search for your topic again and add the phrase “**Pictorial works**” to the subject block. Write down another title of interest. (Try different topics if necessary.)

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Click on New Search. Do a **subject** search for the term **Art**. Look at all the related terms in the right hand column. Click on one that interests you. Write down one of the results displayed.

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### Library home page



From the library home page, click on the **Film Search** tab. Enter one of your topical key words. What different video formats do you see?

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From the library home page, click on the **JumpStart** tab. Enter one of your search terms. What are three useful ways you could limit your results? (See Refine Search and scroll down.)

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### Library database page



From our library home page, go to the database page, and click on the subject **Art and Art Criticism**. Access the database *ArtStor*. Click Advanced Search. Fill in the search template to find architecture or interior design in Austria during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. What are three useful things you can do with the images you retrieve?

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### Research Guides



Find the Research Guide to **Art and Art History** on our home page. Scroll down to the section on Images of Art and Architecture. Choose a source of interest and practice searching. Which one did you choose? Write down something new you learned from this source.

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## Introduction to/Exploring Library Resources, Distinctions between Source Types, Citation and Documentation

Fundamentals of Dance (Fall 2010)

### Library Assignment

Search the **library catalog** for your person. Look for as many different kinds of sources as possible, and check off each corresponding category in the list below. Mark titles of interest in the catalog, and e-mail the list to yourself. Reformat one item into an MLA style citation and forward it to [doran@dickinson.edu](mailto:doran@dickinson.edu). (If you find nothing in the catalog, search [WorldCat](#).)

#### Secondary sources

- Book-length biography
- Book of analysis, criticism, and interpretation of your artist's work
- Chapter about your artist in a book about various artists

#### Primary sources

- Book-length autobiography
- Book or chapter of your artist's analysis and interpretation of his/her own work
- Interviews (transcribed or recorded)
- A recorded performance or rehearsal directed or danced by your artist
- A compilation of reviews of your artist's premieres and other performances

#### Related sources

- Scores and recordings of musical works written specifically for your person
- Adaptations of your person's work in film, art, photography, literature, etc.
- Works of art or music that inspired your artist to create a specific work

Search a **database** such as the **International Bibliography of Theater & Dance**. Find examples from the categories below, and e-mail one MLA citation to [Kirk Doran](mailto:Kirk.Doran).

#### Secondary sources

- A biographical article
- Criticism and interpretation written by others of your artist's work
- A review of a book about your person

#### Primary sources

- Contemporary reviews (published at the time of premieres or other performances)
- Published interviews, correspondence, memoirs by contemporaries of your artist
- Writings by your artist on their own work or related dance topics

Finally, send an e-mail to [doran@dickinson.edu](mailto:doran@dickinson.edu) naming one new technique you learned today, and one question you still have about doing library research.

## **Distinctions between Source Types, Citation and Documentation**

### **FYS: French Imperialism Narratives in Africa and the Caribbean**

Using JumpStart or another database on the databases page  
(<http://lis.dickinson.edu/Library/LISDatabases/index.cfm>) find:

- 1 article you think is **scholarly**
- 1 article you think is **not scholarly/popular**.

Email the citations in MLA style for your articles to [ferere@dickinson.edu](mailto:ferere@dickinson.edu).

**Download a copy of each article, print and bring them to the next class.**

Be prepared to discuss why you think each article is scholarly or not scholarly.

## Information Literacy Components: Using Library Tutorials, Writing a Source Analysis

View the tutorial for finding books in the library. It can be found by typing in either URL below or navigating to “Services” -> “For Students” on the library’s website and selecting the tutorial for finding books in the library under “Help.”

<http://bit.ly/1aj2jWL>

<http://lis.dickinson.edu/Library/tutorials/lctutorial/>

Using the tutorial, find one book on your topic. Read, at minimum, the book’s introduction/first chapter and conclusion, and scan each chapter. Write a citation for the book in the MLA style and answer the following questions about it:

- What is the author’s thesis, or stated purpose for writing this book?
- What evidence or techniques does the author use to advance his/her argument?
- How, specifically, does this book add to your knowledge about your topic? What did you learn about your topic from this book that you did not know before?