



Chemeketa Community College Library

Library Instruction for: WR121

Sharon Toland – Fall 2009

Library Hours		Contact Us	
Monday – Thursday	8 am – 8:30 pm	Website	http://library.chemeketa.edu
Friday	8 am – 5 pm	E-mail	reference@chemeketa.edu
Saturday	10 am – 3 pm	Phone	503.399.5231
Sunday	Closed	Reference Desk	Building 9, Salem campus

Goal: To find sources of information for the causal analysis, definition and argument essays. These sources will include print and online biographies, subject encyclopedias, and articles from magazines & newspapers.

Brainstorming Search Terms

Before you start your research, take a moment to think about your topic and identify words and phrases that could be used to search for more information. These search terms are also called “keywords.” Write down your search terms. When you find information, keep an eye out for other keywords or search terms that could help you find more information. These terms could also be names of people, historical events, agencies, organizations and associations, reports, or legislation.

Finding Books

The library catalog is used to find books and audio-visual materials at Chemeketa Community College library and other public and college/university libraries. The catalog is online at <http://catalog.ccrls.org>.

Searching the catalog will tell you what the Chemeketa library owns, but in most cases you still have to go to the shelves to find the item. Most library materials check out with your Chemeketa student ID card.

Subject Encyclopedias

Subject encyclopedias are an excellent place to narrow down and/or get background information on a topic as well as find keywords to describe your topic. They also recommend other places to go for more information. Although most encyclopedias cannot be checked out, you are welcome to make photocopies. Recommended subject encyclopedias for this assignment are:

- Encyclopedia of Racism in the United States [R 305.80097303 En1]
- The Psychology of Prejudice and Discrimination: Racism in America [R 303.385 P95 v.1]
- Social Issues in America: An Encyclopedia [R 361.97303 So1]

For the **Definition Essay**, these encyclopedias may be helpful:

- Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life [R305.8003 W89]
- American Immigrant Cultures: Builders of a Nation [R 305.800973 Am3]

Controversial Topic Databases

The databases listed below are a great place to start your research, especially for controversial topics. These are all available from on and off-campus at <http://library.chemeketa.edu/information/database.htm>.

From off campus, you will be prompted to enter your My Chemeketa username and password.

- **CQ Researcher**
- **Issues and Controversies on File**

Finding articles in magazines and newspapers

Databases are used to find articles. There are many different databases available for different topics. From on-campus or off-campus, go to

☆ <http://library.chemeketa.edu/information/database.htm> to select and use library databases. From off campus you will be asked to enter your My Chemeketa username and password.

Recommended databases for controversial topics are:

- Academic OneFile [Gale] – Mostly scholarly journals on a variety of topics.
- General OneFile [Gale] - Provides full text for many popular magazines.
- InfoTrac Newsstand [Gale] – Full text for a variety of newspapers.

Detecting an argument in a magazine or newspaper article

Except in special-purpose periodicals like CQ Researcher, you may find a list of articles that are not clearly marked as pro or con. You may need to look at the summary or introductory paragraph of an article to judge whether the author is offering an opinion. Look for words that suggest an opinion, like the ones below:

excessive	mistaken	misguided
contrasting view	proponents	opponents
reconsidered	misconception	benefits
exaggerate	myth	so-called

Statistics

- United States Census <http://www.census.gov>
The American FactFinder link on the left side of the page is a good place to start.
- Polling Report Statistics <http://www.pollingreport.com/>
"An independent, nonpartisan resource on trends in American public opinion."
- Public Agenda Online <http://www.publicagenda.org/>
Scroll down to Issue Guides and select Race or related topics.
- UMich Statistics – Sociology <http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/stsoc.html>
Choose from sections such as Race or Segregation to find statistics from a variety of sources.
- Southern Poverty and Law Center <http://www.splcenter.org/index.jsp>
The Intelligence Report includes statistics on the number of hate groups in the US.
- FBI - Hate Crime <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cid/civilrights/civilrts.htm>
Includes a link to a report and statistics on hate crime, cases and news.