

History 480 Seminar in History Modern America

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Session 2

Library Instruction Goals

- Finding Books beyond reference
- Library of Congress Classification System – shelving and call numbers - browsing
- Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) – Catalog access points
- Primary vs. Secondary sources
- BearCat, WorldCat, other tools
- Interlibrary Loan

Searching Databases - Review

- Databases/Records/Fields/Data
- Search vocabulary gets matched to data in the Field(s) you specify – default in most databases is the broad “keyword” or “all fields” starting point
- End goal for you is a results list with a high degree of relevancy, so you must search the....
- Subject/Descriptor field (what)
 - Why (relevancy vs. date vs. other : order of results lists)
 - How (thesaurus or LCSH)
 - Where (WorldCat)

Library of Congress

- Serves as the research arm of Congress.
- The de facto “National Library” for the U.S.
- Largest Library in the world
- Enormous Influence, especially:
 - L.C. classification system (shelving/browsing)
 - L.C. subject headings (topical access points)

Catalog Searching

- Basic – finding and using the correct general subject terms
- Intermediate – knowing about, locating, and using the correct LCSH sub-terms (sources, diaries, biographies)
- Advanced – using all the limiting features to good effect, union catalogs, ILL, other esoterica