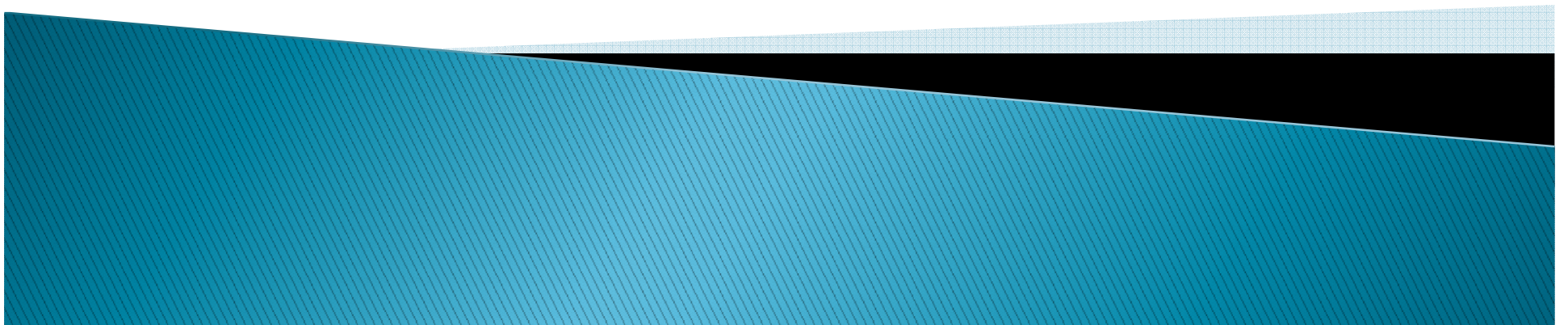


Literature 110 – Writing about Literature

T. Tiernan
Fall 2009

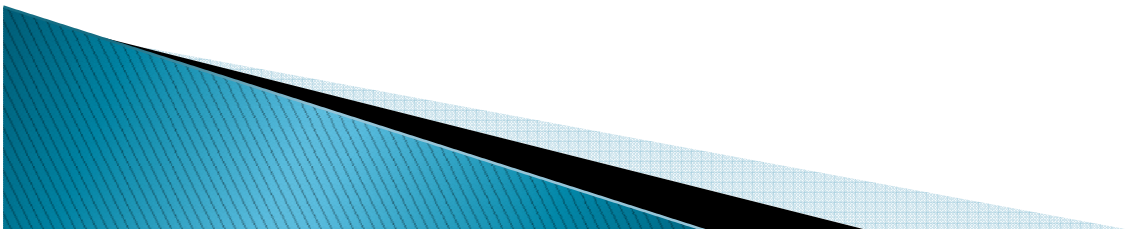


Class Goals

From your Syllabus --

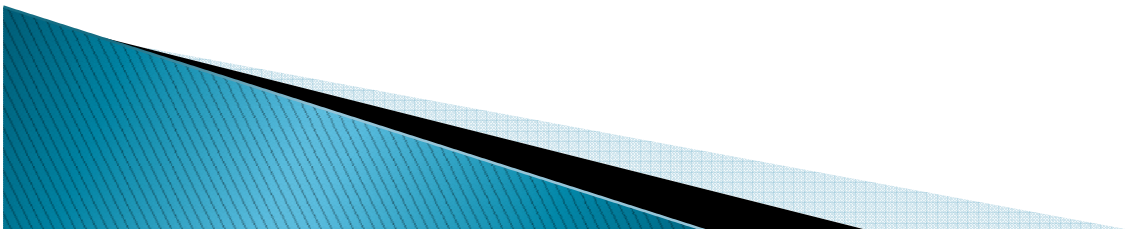
To improve information management skills including:

- identifying publications and other resources that would be useful for learning about a subject;
- knowing the advantages and limitations of these resources;
- locating resources in the library and through the Internet;
- manipulating information handling tools.



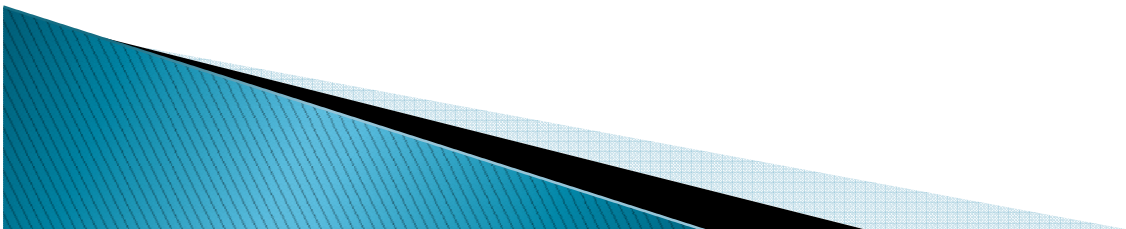
“Research not Re-search”

- ▶ Research is often referred to as the “Research Process” or “Research Methodology”
- ▶ Start with a plan – What? How?
- ▶ Use a research log to keep track of your research
 - Simple, brief list – chronological
 - Page per resource – revise over time



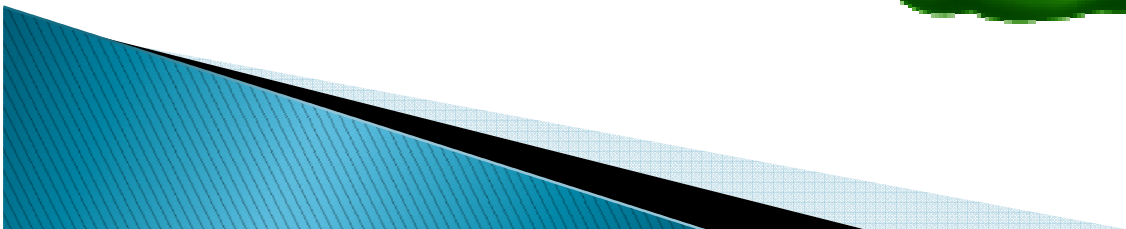
Finding and Using Books

- ▶ BearCat – the online catalog of the SUNY Potsdam Libraries' collections
 - Identifies materials in the Libraries or provides links to electronic resources
 - Reference Collection – dictionaries, encyclopedias, bibliographies – material you “refer” to
 - Stacks Collection – works of literature, criticism and analysis
- ▶ WorldCat – online comprehensive catalog of libraries worldwide
 - Includes a link to Interlibrary Loan (ILL)



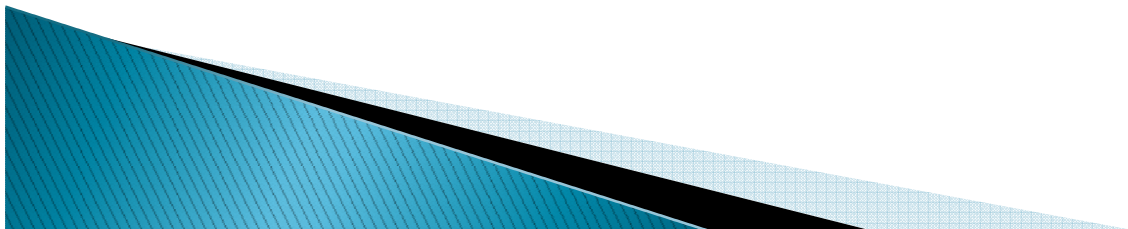
Searching Book Catalogs by Subject

- ▶ Subjects or topics are included in catalog records in, appropriately, the subject field
- ▶ Subject entries are drawn from a controlled list of headings



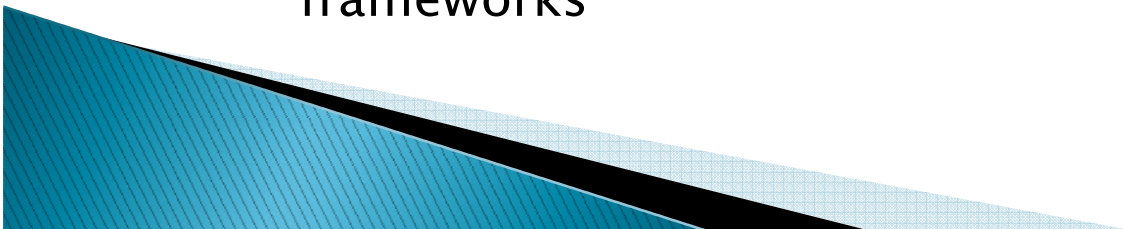
Keyword or Browse Searching

- ▶ Search for words included in the subject field
 - Search lacks context
 - Searcher analyses results to identify relevant resources
- ▶ Browse to find an appropriate subject heading
 - Search directs from synonyms to used heading
 - Searcher chooses the result set that includes records with the desired heading assigned
 - Indexer provides the analysis



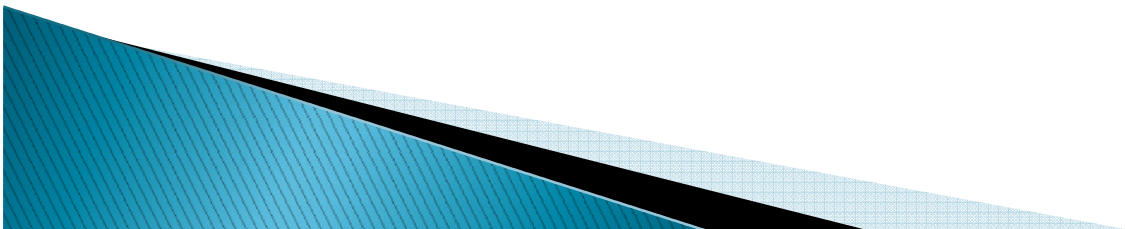
Finding Articles

- ▶ Databases provide indexing of journal and magazine content
 - Some include book chapters, e-resources, websites, etc.
 - What does the database say it is “ABOUT”?
- ▶ Most databases provide an “advanced search” template that supports Boolean searching
 - “Limiters” allow you to control results by type of document, date range, added topics
 - Searching framework is provided by the database vendor
 - The same vendor may have several databases with similar searching frameworks
 - Databases that are appropriate for a single subject may be provided by different vendors offering unique searching frameworks



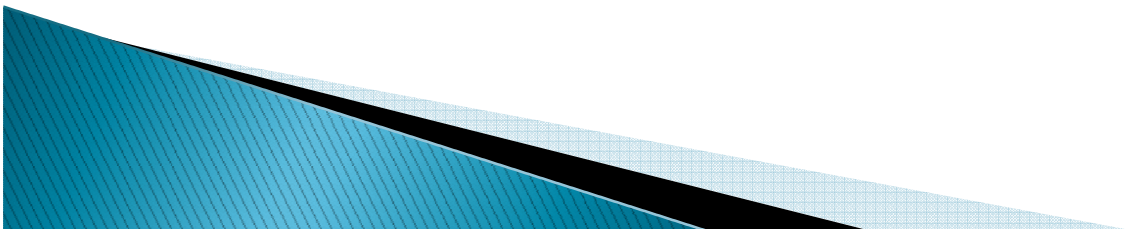
Academic Search Complete – Ebscohost

- ▶ An excellent database with coverage for a wide range of topics
- ▶ Allows you to apply limits before searching or to a search result
- ▶ Provides a “My EbscoHost” account that is good across all databases from this vendor
 - Allows you to keep track of search strategies, save results, revise and rerun searches
- ▶ Results may include full-text or use Article Linker to search across all library content or request ILL



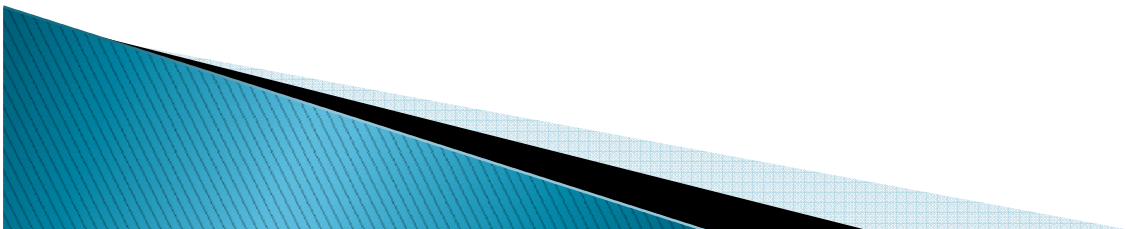
Literature Resource Center – Gale

- ▶ Database includes full-text of essays, collections of reviews, biographies, overviews from several published Gale reference series AND articles from journals
- ▶ Focus and size of database necessitates advanced search and careful consideration of limiters to give appropriate results
- ▶ Content focus is primarily on author and/or works



Review

- ▶ Plan your research to make effective use of your time
- ▶ Reference resources can set the context for your research
 - Background information, definitions of terms
- ▶ Keeping a research log allows you to keep track of progress and refine searching



Review – continued

- ▶ Book resources are indexed in catalogs
 - BearCat for local holdings
 - WorldCat – use ILL to obtain materials
- ▶ Articles, essays, book chapters are indexed in databases
 - Use the “Start by Subject” link to find the most appropriate database
- ▶ Consider your search strategy and review your results accordingly

