Literature Review/Secondary Sources

Recommended Academic DATABASES

Access these databases by visiting www.library.strose.edu > RESOURCES > Database Listing

- All Knight Search
- STOR
- America: History and Life

All purpose database that includes both scholarly and non-scholarly sources.
A good database for all disciplines across the humanities and social sciences.
Includes sources covering the history and culture of the United States and Canada, from prehistory to the present.

Primary Sources

- archives and manuscript material
- artifacts (e.g. clothing, furniture, tools, etc.)
- audio recordings
- autobiographies and memoirs
- diaries and journals
- government documents
- interviews
- legal documents
- newspaper articles
- oral histories
- original documents (e.g. birth certificates, property deeds, trial transcripts etc.)
- patents
- personal letters and correspondence
- photographs
- printed ephemera
- research article containing original research
- research data (e.g. statistics, data sets, etc.)
- scrapbooks
- speeches
- surveys and field work
- video footage
- works of art
- works of literature

Visit the Research Guide for this course for a list of additional primary source resources.
Database Searching Tips & Tricks

**Keyword Searching**
Look to your thesis statement or research question for keywords and/or phrases that express your idea.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BROAD</th>
<th>NARROW</th>
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</table>
| - Choose general but relevant search terms  
- Think about related terms or synonyms  
- Begin with one or two search terms  
- Explore topics or subject terms assigned by a database | - Add additional keywords  
- Choose narrower, more specific search terms  
- Search for phrases by using “quotes”  
- Use Filters: select item types, publication dates, etc. |

Example:

BROAD: reform = Broad
NARROW: “labor reform” = narrow

**Boolean Operators aka Connectors**
Most library catalogs and databases use Boolean operators (AND, OR, and NOT) for searching.

- **AND**  
  Includes articles that contain ALL the terms
  
  “progressive era” AND “child labor”

- **OR**  
  Includes articles with ANY of the terms
  
  (law or legislation or regulation)

- **NOT**  
  Excludes articles containing the SECOND term
  
  immigration AND Chinese NOT “Eastern Europe”

**Phrase Searching**
Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase:

“progressive era”  
“social activism”  
“political reform”

**Nesting**
Use parentheses to put search words into sets. Use nesting with AND, OR, and NOT:

reform AND (labor OR housing)

**Truncation**
Broaden your search. Enter the root word then add an * to get variant word endings and spellings:

reform* = reform, reforms, reformed, reformers, etc.