

Library Research

Chris Poehlmann, Bibliographer
for Business & Economics

Learning Outcomes

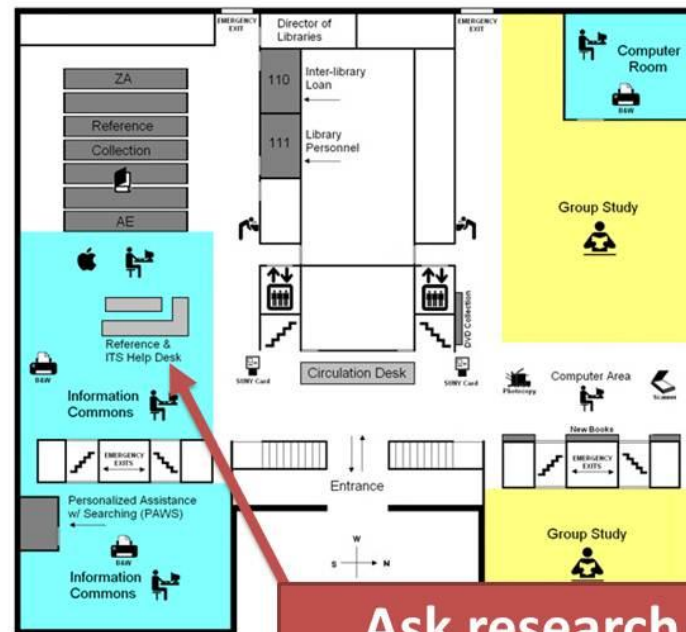
- Overview of the information cycle.
- Investigating a research topic.
- Searching for and locating relevant information.
- Evaluating information.
- Using information

University Library

- Bibliographer (Subject Librarian)
 - A Bibliographer is a librarian who has in-depth knowledge and expertise in a subject.
- Library web page
 - <http://library.albany.edu/>
- Business page
 - <http://library.albany.edu/subject/business>

Library Assistance: Start here

University Library, First Floor



**Ask research
questions here**

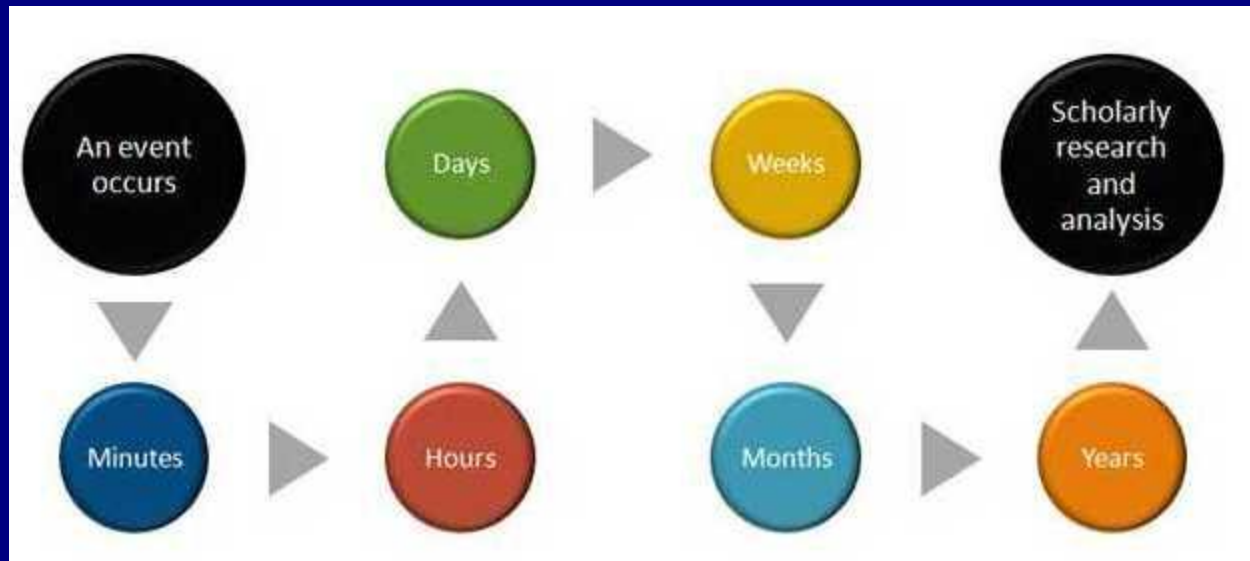
Useful Web pages

- Main library page: <http://library.albany.edu/>
- Business subject page:
<http://library.albany.edu/subject/business>
 - Librarian contact information
 - Databases
 - Research guides

Chris Poehlmann

- (518) 442-3582
- University Library, LI-227
- cpoehlmann@albany.edu (preferred method)
 - Who you are (especially if you're emailing from a non-UA account)
 - What information do you want?
 - What information will you settle for?
 - What format do you want (text, Excel, etc.)
 - How soon do you need it?

Information Cycle - Timeline



Minutes to Hours

- Minutes – News sources report event. Facts may not be accurate.
- Hours – Public opinion begins to form and circulate.

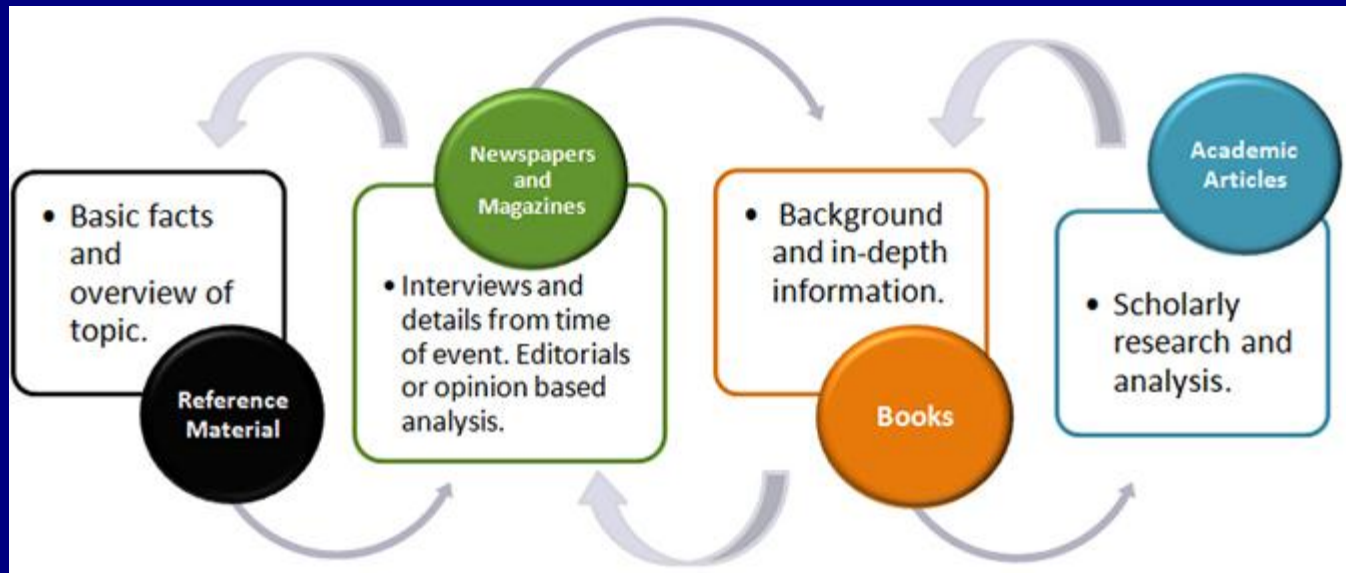
Days to Weeks

- Days – new information , including expert opinions added to news stories.
- Weeks – Analysis begins. Be aware that much of this is preliminary and biased.

Months to Years

- Months – academics and experts begin researching the event. Articles begin to be published in scholarly/peer reviewed journals.
- Years – academics begin to summarize their findings in books.
- Several years – overviews begin to appear in textbooks and encyclopedias.

Research Cycle



Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Sources

- Primary Sources



Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Sources

- Secondary

Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Works that analyze, assess or interpret an historical event, era or phenomenon, generally utilizing primary sources to do so.
Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interpretation of information, usually written well after the event; reviews or critiques
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Journal articles, editorial articles, literary criticism, book reviews, biographies, textbooks

Primary, Secondary & Tertiary Sources

- Tertiary

Definition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sources that identify and locate primary and secondary sources
Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reference works, collections or lists of primary and secondary sources, finding tools for sources
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encyclopedias, Indexes, Abstracts, Bibliographies, Library databases and catalogs

Investigating Step 1: Analyzing the assignment

- Is it a report?
- Is it an analytical paper?
- Is it an argumentative essay?

Investigating Step 2: Identifying a topic

- Choose something that interests you!

Investigating Step 3:

Writing a working thesis statement

- Using a good thesis statement for a paper allows you to skip over the sources that do not address your topic.
- A good working thesis statement saves you time and keeps you focused.

Investigating **Step 4**: Searching for Information

- Be flexible!

Searching for Information

- When you know:
 - What you want
 - What you need

Information Sources

- Encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs, atlases, and handbooks.
- Newspapers and magazines.
- Journals.
- Books.
- Web


Web Resources

- Pro:
 - Book and movie reviews
 - Directories
 - Statistics
 - Travel information
 - Government and non-profit web sites
- Con:
 - Bad for:
 - Copyright/ownership can be unclear
 - Some content is edited on a minute-by-minute basis by non-experts
 - Scholarly sources seldom link to full text without the library's linking services.

Library Resources

- Efficiently link you to books, articles, newspapers, historical information, music, maps, videos, and full-text online resources.
- Selected to meet the varied research needs of college students.
- Librarians


Library as Web Portal

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY - STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Ask Us!
IM/Text | Email | Phone



UAlbany Home | Calendars & Schedules | IT Services


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Quick Links
 Library Hours
Minerva - Library Catalog
Databases
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Resources For
Undergraduate Students
Graduate Students
Faculty
Alumni
Distance Learners
Persons with Disabilities

DatabaseseDiscoverBooksJournalsWebsite




Search for databases by title

Popular search examples:
[ACM Digital Library](#), [EBSCO Academic Search Complete](#),
[Lexis Nexis](#), [Science Direct](#), [JSTOR](#), [Worldcat](#)
[Find more databases](#) 

UNDERGRADUATES!
THIS GUIDE IS FOR YOU!

<http://library.albany.edu/undergraduates/>

Library News / Events
DATABASE OF THE MONTH for
SEPTEMBER - ProQuest Congressional -
[more](#)
The Interactive Media Center Offers Free
Classes - [more](#)
The Circulation Desks are Going Green! -
[more](#)
 news page 1 of 3 

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Databases

- A container of information

The screenshot shows the University of Albany Libraries website. The header includes the university logo, the name "UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES", and the full name "UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY - STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK". Navigation links include "UA Albany Home", "Calendars & Schedules", "IT Services", "Ask Us!", "IM/Text", "Email", and "Phone". A secondary navigation bar contains "UA LIBRARIES", "CONTACT US", "RESEARCH ASSISTANCE", "LIBRARY SERVICES", and "ABOUT THE LIBRARIES". On the left, a "Quick Links" sidebar lists: "Library Hours", "Minerva - Library Catalog", "Databases", "Journal Finder", "Electronic Reserves / Blackboard", "Research by Subject", "Online Reference", and "Instruction and Tutorials". The main content area features a row of buttons: "Databases", "eDiscover", "Books", "Journals", and "Website". The "Databases" button is circled in red. Below this row is a search box with the placeholder text "Find Databases" and a "Find It!" button. Under the search box, it says "Search for databases by title". Below that, it lists "Popular search examples:" followed by links to "ACM Digital Library", "EBSCO: Academic Search Complete", "Lexis Nexis", "Science Direct", "JSTOR", and "Worldcat". At the bottom right of the search area is a link "Find more databases" with a green arrow icon.

Library Catalog

The screenshot shows the University at Albany Libraries website. The header features the university logo and name, along with navigation links for 'UA Libraries', 'Contact Us', 'Research Assistance', 'Library Services', and 'About the Libraries'. A secondary header includes 'Ask Us!' with contact options like 'IM/Text', 'Email', and 'Phone'. The main content area has a navigation bar with tabs for 'Databases', 'eDiscover', 'Books' (highlighted with a red circle), 'Journals', and 'Website'. Below this is a search section titled 'Search for databases by title' with a search box containing the placeholder text 'Find Databases', a magnifying glass icon, and a 'Find It!' button. Underneath the search box, there are 'Popular search examples' listed as links: 'ACM Digital Library', 'EBSCO: Academic Search Complete', 'Lexis Nexis', 'Science Direct', 'JSTOR', and 'Worldcat'. A link to 'Find more databases' with a green arrow icon is also present. On the left side, there is a 'Quick Links' section with a clock icon and links to 'Library Hours', 'Minerva - Library Catalog', 'Databases', 'Journal Finder', 'Electronic Reserves / Blackboard', 'Research by Subject', and 'Online Reference'.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES
UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY - STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Ask Us!
IM/Text | Email | Phone

UAlbany Home | Calendars & Schedules | IT Services

UA LIBRARIES | CONTACT US | RESEARCH ASSISTANCE | LIBRARY SERVICES | ABOUT THE LIBRARIES

Quick Links

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- Online Reference

Databases | **eDiscover** | **Books** | **Journals** | **Website**

Search for databases by title

Find Databases  **Find It!**

Popular search examples:

[ACM Digital Library](#), [EBSCO: Academic Search Complete](#),
[Lexis Nexis](#), [Science Direct](#), [JSTOR](#), [Worldcat](#)

[Find more databases](#) 

Article Databases

The screenshot shows the University Libraries website for the University at Albany - State University of New York. The header includes the university logo, name, and contact information. A navigation bar contains links to UA Libraries, Contact Us, Research Assistance, Library Services, and About the Libraries. On the left, a 'Quick Links' sidebar lists various services, with 'Research by Subject' circled in red. The main content area features a 'Databases' tab and a search box labeled 'Search for databases by title'. Below the search box, a list of 'Popular search examples' is provided, including ACM Digital Library, EBSCO: Academic Search Complete, Lexis Nexis, Science Direct, JSTOR, and Worldcat. A 'Find more databases' link with a green arrow is also circled in red.

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- Research by Subject**
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Databases | eDiscover | Books | Journals | Website

Search for databases by title

Find Databases

Popular search examples:

[ACM Digital Library](#), [EBSCO: Academic Search Complete](#),
[Lexis Nexis](#), [Science Direct](#), [JSTOR](#), [Worldcat](#)

[Find more databases](#)

Searching Databases

Most databases can be searched by keywords. You can also search databases in different fields:

- Author's name
- Subjects
- Journal title
- Article title

Most databases will allow you to limit your search by:

- Date
- Type of publication (journal articles, scholarly articles, books, chapters, dissertations, etc.)
- Language
- Geographical area

Evaluating Resources

- Currency
- Authority
- Accuracy
- Relevance
- Purpose

Citing Sources - Why

- Reflect work you have put into locating and exploring your sources.
- Help readers understand the context of your paper & are a courtesy to the reader, who may share your interest in a particular area of study.
- Acknowledge those authors who contributed to your learning and your work.
- By illustrating your own learning process, also draw attention to the originality and legitimacy of your own ideas.
- You demonstrate your integrity and skill as a responsible student and participant in your field of study.

Citing Sources - When

- Direct quotes of more than one word.
- Paraphrasing or summarizing.
- Information which may be common knowledge but still unfamiliar to your reader.
- Any source that you use for information can and should be cited.
- If uncertain, err on the side of caution and cite sources.

Citation Fox

- <http://library.albany.edu/cfox>

Sources



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Based on a work at
<http://library.nd.edu/instruction/potofgold>.