USING LIBRARY RESOURCES AT A DISTANCE
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Developing Research Skills
- requires critical thinking and problem-based learning techniques
- takes time, patience, and practice
- stays with you and serves for a lifetime

Necessary Search Skills
- Scheduling time – usually lots of time – to get from start to finish on a research project; this takes estimating skills which you will have to learn as you go along
More Necessary Search Skills…

- Developing ability to clearly define topic and to identify important concepts for the search statement
- Consulting dictionaries and encyclopedias for an overview of unfamiliar topic areas

Did I Mention Research Skills?

- Working acquaintance with logical operators:  -- and, or
- Devising search terms – keywords vs. thesauri
- Honing search statement construction

Don’t Forget to…

- Evaluate search results
- Obtain documents that aren’t online:
  -- DELCAT
  -- WorldCat (database on the Library’s database web page)
  -- Library near you
  -- Interlibrary Loan
Gain Access to Library Resources

- Make sure you have the proper application software and internet browser setup (the proxy server and adobe acrobat at least)

- Read the Library’s “How to Connect” information at http://www.lib.udel.edu/welcome/connect.html

Most Importantly…

- If you have problems or questions, please contact Division of Special Programs at 302-831-2416 or call Computing Services at 302-831-8825 or use the web form http://www.udel.edu/help/webtt.html

- Do not call the Library, we can’t help you with connection problems

Library Distance Learning Resources

http://www2.lib.udel.edu/dls/dls2/information/index.html

Basic information is here, so take a look!
Okay, where do you start?

- Survey the topic and clarify unfamiliar terms
- Clearly define the topic
- Decide what types of resources are needed
- Decide on other limiting factors

3 Basic Types of Research Tools

1. Databases – generic files of research materials
2. DELCAT -- the University of Delaware Library’s online public catalog
3. World Wide Web – an incredibly huge conglomerate of all kinds of information

Now You’re Ready to Search!

- Budget your time
- Search databases to locate articles on a topic
- Search DELCAT to locate books on a topic or journals online in the Library’s collections
Also...

- Consider using references in articles to locate additional sources if needed
- Evaluate your sources
  
  For evaluation criteria go to
  [http://www2.lib.udel.edu/ref/howto/evalsour.htm](http://www2.lib.udel.edu/ref/howto/evalsour.htm)

The 1st Important Research Tool:

Databases

- Databases are generic catalogs of articles and other types of documents by topic
- Databases usually permit both keyword and thesauri searching

Databases

- Databases cover specific time periods. Some are very current only; some are very comprehensive in time, and some are archival having only historic, dated information
- Databases often contain links to full text online
Library Databases Page
http://www.lib.udel.edu/db/

Click here to get to a list of databases

Use the “Specific Subjects” box...

Go here to get a list of databases that cover nursing topics

List of Nursing Databases
http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/nurs/db.htm
Almost Ready to Search…

Important limiting areas to use often

Here are limiting factors I’ve chosen
Search Results from CINAHL

My search garnered 2 articles

A Full Record from CINAHL

CINAHL thesaurus vocabulary

The Big Blue Button!

Here it is!
The 1st Thing that the Blue Button does

Click on the blue button or the blue underlined journal title above to get the full text.

The 2nd Thing the Blue Button Does

Click here to go to the DELCAT record for the journal.

The 3rd Thing the Blue Button Does

The University of Delaware Library does not subscribe to this journal.
The 2nd Important Research Tool: DELCAT

- DELCAT lets you locate books owned by and journals subscribed to by the University Library and its branches

- DELCAT provides searching by keyword and thesaurus vocabulary, as well as by author, title, and other distinctive means

http://delcat.udel.edu/

Search here for keywords; use pull-down boxes to refine your search statement.

Search here using thesaurus terms; notice the pull-down boxes which search for specific kinds of things, like author and specific title as well as subject terms.
The Last of 3 Important Research Tools – The World Wide Web

- Take a look at the Library's Web page on "Searching the World Wide Web" for very good advice
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/e110/www/

- Rather than start with a “Google” search, always start with the Library’s “Subjects A-Z” http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/

Nursing Subject Guide…
Useful Library Web Links

- Library’s home page
  http://www.lib.udel.edu/

- Nursing Subject Page
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/nurs/

- Starting Library Research
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/usered/starting.htm

MORE USEFUL LINKS

- DELCAT http://delcat.udel.edu/

- Virtual Reference Page
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/ref/virtref.htm

- Subject Guides A-Z
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/subj/

MORE USEFUL LINKS

- Ask A Librarian
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/ref/askalib/

- Databases http://www.lib.udel.edu/db/

- Evaluation Criteria
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/ref/howto/evalsour.htm
OTHER USEFUL LINKS

- More Evaluation Information
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/usered/infolit/search.htm
- Distance Learning Resources Page
  http://www2.lib.udel.edu/dls/dl2/index.html
- Interlibrary Loan
  http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/ill/

What is Interlibrary Loan?

- Virtually all libraries have some sort of interlibrary loan service (ILL)
- ILL services provide books and photocopies of articles that the libraries don’t own
- ILL takes time

Distance ILL Service: Facts of Life

- If you live too far to use the University of Delaware Library’s ILL, go to a public library near you to get your materials; you will probably have to pay for copies of articles
When You Have Research Questions

- Contact me about research questions:
  Demaris Hollembeak demaris@udel.edu

- Ask questions using the “Ask A Librarian” web pages http://www2.lib.udel.edu/ref/askalib/

Asking Questions is Easy
http://www2.lib.udel.edu/ref/askalib/

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