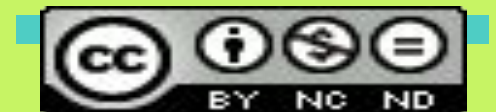


Humanities Databases

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WHY?

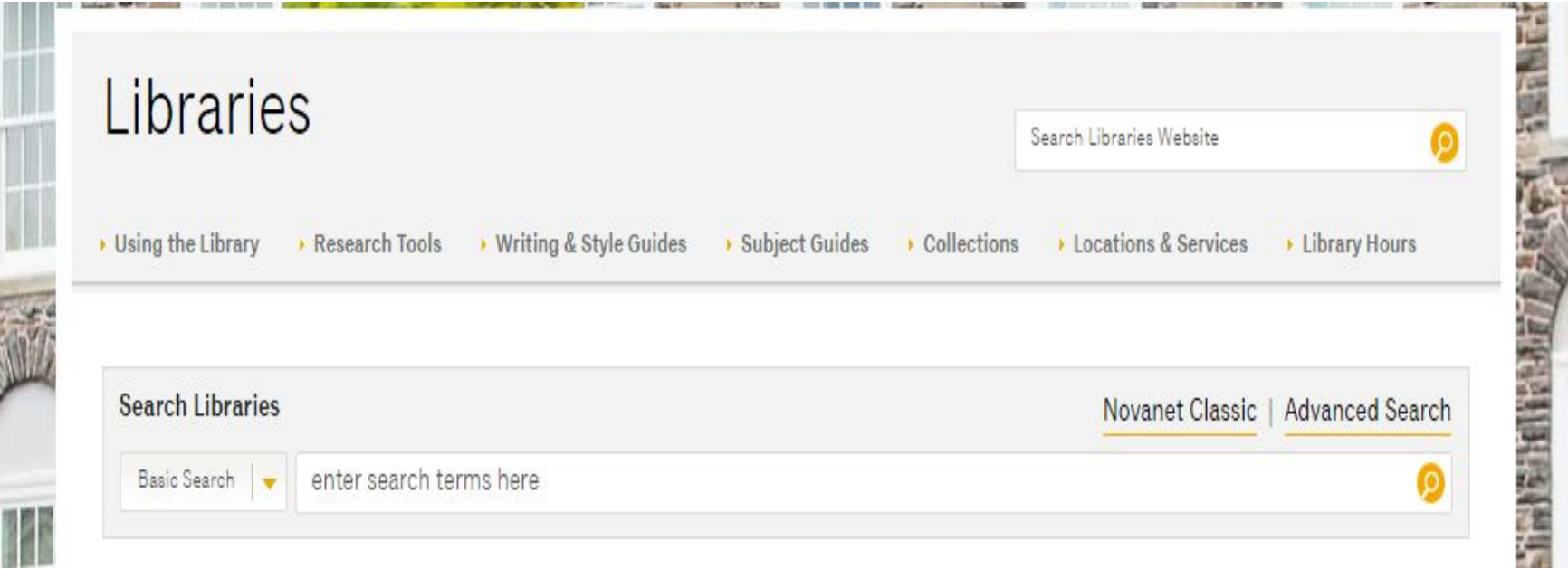
The Library provides resources desired by your professors and relevant to your research. The Library provides access to quality resources not available through Google and other search engines (e.g. Books, scholarly/peer-reviewed articles).

Your Search approach

- **Plan** (think of alternatives for your search terms)
- **Know where to look** (different databases for different purposes)
- **Refine and Rework** your search (sometimes based on what you find as relevant sources)

**Which
databases**

Library catalog



The screenshot shows the top portion of a library website. At the top left, the word "Libraries" is displayed in a large, black, sans-serif font. To its right is a search bar with the placeholder text "Search Libraries Website" and a magnifying glass icon. Below this is a horizontal navigation menu with several items: "Using the Library", "Research Tools", "Writing & Style Guides", "Subject Guides", "Collections", "Locations & Services", and "Library Hours", each preceded by a small right-pointing arrow. Below the navigation menu is a larger search area. On the left, it says "Search Libraries". On the right, there are two links: "Novanet Classic" and "Advanced Search", both underlined. Below these links is a search input field with a dropdown menu on the left showing "Basic Search" and a magnifying glass icon on the right. The placeholder text inside the search field is "enter search terms here".

Indexing & Abstracting Databases



Searching: [MLA International Bibliography](#) | [Choose Databases](#)

DALHOUSIE

Select a Field (optional) ▾ [?](#)

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

Search Options

Search Modes and Expanders


Search modes [?](#)

- Boolean/Phrase
- Find all my search terms
- Find any of my search terms
- SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Apply related words

Apply equivalent subjects

Specialized databases / primary sources



The screenshot shows the homepage of Early Canadiana Online. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Early Canadiana Online' on the left, 'New Search' in the center, and 'Login/Signup' and 'Français' on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large banner image featuring historical illustrations, a portrait of a man, a woman, and a magnifying glass over a document. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains an 'ABOUT EARLY CANADIANA ONLINE' section with three paragraphs of text. The right column contains a 'SEARCH' section with a search input field, dropdown menus for 'Search in' and 'Collection', a 'Date Range' section with 'YYYY' to 'YYYY' input fields, and three buttons: 'Search', 'Help', and 'Random Document'. The footer area is partially visible at the bottom.

Early Canadiana Online [New Search](#) [Login/Signup](#) [Français](#)

Welcome, Dalhousie University

ABOUT EARLY CANADIANA ONLINE

This virtual library holds the most complete set of full-text historical content about Canada, including books, magazines and government documents.

Early Canadiana Online is used by scholars to advance our knowledge of Canada in a wide variety of fields, by educators to bring primary sources into the classroom, and by genealogists and history buffs to discover Canada's early days.

We take painstaking efforts to capture the full span of Canada's documentary record, adding new content every year. This includes material published from the time of the first European settlers to the first half of the 20th century.

Our content spans 21 languages, including French, English, Latin, Greek, and many First Nations languages.

SEARCH

Search the collection

Search in Collection

Everything All

Date Range

YYYY to YYYY

[Search](#) [Help](#) [Random Document](#)

Searching options

Library Catalog

- ▣ Good for searching books
- ▣ Searches across databases and other resources

Indexing & Abstracting databases

- ▣ More focused searching (discipline-specific)
- ▣ Includes journal articles, book reviews, some e-books, and primary source material (limited)

Specialized databases & Primary sources

- ▣ Often specific to theme, time period, contain unique, non-published materials

Databases across the disciplines



English

Annual
Bibliography of
English Language
& Literature
MLA International
Bibliography

History

America History &
Life (North
America)
Historical
Abstracts

Philosophy

Philosopher's
Index
PhilPapers

**Cross-disciplinary: JSTOR, Academic Search Premier,
Digital Dissertations**

Accessing databases

3 ways:

1. Through your subject guide.
2. Searching for the database by name.
3. Through the library homepage (by searching by article)

Finding your subject guide

1. Go to Library home page (<http://dal.ca/library>)
2. Click “Subject Guides” from top menu
3. Search or Browse for an appropriate subject guide

Try it out!



Using the methods just described, find an appropriate database for your subject area.

Planning your search

1. Break it up (searching using keywords not phrases)
2. Think of alternatives
3. Search in specific fields (e.g. title, abstract)
4. Broaden or limit your search (depending on your search results)

Plan your search



Research Topic:

Gender roles in Shakespeare's plays.

Research Question:

How were gender roles depicted differently in Shakespeare's plays ?

Identify keywords

Shakespeare

William

Shakespeare

Gender roles

Gender

Masculinity

Femininity

Plays

Drama (too broad)

As you like it

Twelfth Night

Hints:

- Use a thesaurus or subject headings to identify different keywords that could be used.

Look at the abstracts or descriptions in books or articles on the topic and see what terms the author uses.

Not getting results

Try different variations of the search terms

Try fewer search terms (sometimes less is more)

Entering your keywords



Use different fields provided

Select the field that you wish to search
(e.g. Title and Abstract)

Use AND, OR, NOT options appropriately

AND, OR, NOT



AND = Search both keywords/phrases

OR = Search for one keywords/phrases

Example: Shakespeare AND Gender OR Feminism

NOT = exclude keywords/phrases

Example: Shakespeare AND Gender NOT Othello

Word variation

- “*” -- use an asterisk after a word to catch different word variations
E.g. “Shakespear* - Shakespeare,
Shakespearian

Be careful because you might include unintended words as part of this: e.g.
“Germ*” vs. “German*” = Germans,
Germany.”

Proximity & Wildcard operators

- “*” -- use n# to find words within close proximity to one another
E.g. “Shakespeare n2 gender”
(note: different databases use different conventions for this)

Use “?” to find variations on letter.

E.g. wom?n will find “women” and woman”

Controlled vocabularies

- Use of more formal terms that resources are filed under.
- Called different things in different databases (e.g. Thesaurus in MLA ,Indexes in Historical abstracts)

Limiting your search results



- Limit by certain criteria:
 - Type (e.g. scholarly, peer-reviewed)
 - Date
 - Source-type
 - Language

Exercise



Additional tips

- Look in the sources of your relevant sources and search for them (by title)
- If the full-text is not available look in the sources of your relevant sources and search for them (by title)
- Use the “Get it at Dal” button (if available to get the resource from another database)

Additional features

- ▣ Article tools (permalinks, citation examples.)
- ▣ Searching across databases
- ▣ References

Getting help

- ▣ [Using the library](#)
- ▣ LiveHelp
- ▣ Killam reference desk
- ▣ Your liaison librarians

Thanks!

Any questions?

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