ENG101: College Writing (Nadeau)

Libguide: http://libguides.bristolcc.edu/eng101/nadeau

Research and Instruction Librarian: Emily Brown
emily.brown@bristolcc.edu
774.357.3040

Finding Help

Chat: Chat reference service are available online. A librarian is available to chat during research help hours.

Telephone: Contact the research help desk at 508-678-2811 ext. 2108.

In person: A librarian is available at the research help desk at the following times:
- Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm
- Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
- Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
- Sunday: 12:00 - 5:00 pm

Book-A-Librarian (appointment): This service is open to all BCC students, faculty, and staff. You can "book" time with a librarian (up to 60 minutes) so that we can sit down and help you, one-on-one, with your research.

E-mail: Complete the form on the help page, and a librarian will e-mail you back with answers and suggestions. You will receive a reply within 2 business days.

Resource Overview

For your assignment you will need to use at least to find several credible sources. Here's what we'll be covering today.

- Identifying a Researchable Trend
- Developing a Strong Thesis
- Finding Statistics
- Finding Research
DEVELOP A THESIS

Explore your topic through questioning
- Ask open ended questions. How? Why?
- So what? Why is this topic important? Why does it matter to you, and why should it matter to others?
- Reflect and identify the questions you feel are worth exploring through research.

Determine and evaluate your research question
Research questions should be specific enough to be well covered in the space available. Questions shouldn’t have a simple yes or no answer, and should require research and analysis.

- Take your topic from general to specific.
- Is your research question clear and focused?
- Is your research question complex?

Hypothesize
- Consider the avenue you might take with your research.
- If you are making an argument, what points will you argue?
- Why does your argument matter?
- How might others challenge your argument?
- What types of sources will you need to support your argument?

Sample Research Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clarity</th>
<th>Simply vs. Complex</th>
<th>Focused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unclear: Why are social networking sites harmful?</td>
<td>Too simple: How are doctors addressing diabetes in the U.S.?</td>
<td>Unfocused: What is the effect on the environment from global warming?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear: How are online users experiencing or addressing privacy issues on social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter?</td>
<td>Appropriately complex: What are common traits of those suffering from diabetes in America, and how can these commonalities be used to aid the medical community in prevention of the disease?</td>
<td>Focused: How is glacial melting affecting penguins in Antarctica?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Adapted from Indiana University Libraries*
RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET

Authority and Accuracy: Who produced this site – is it a credible source? What is the purpose of the site, why was it created? Is the person, organization, or group qualified to write this content? What is the domain of the URL?

Some common domains are:
- .com or .biz – a business or commercial website
- .edu – an educational institution
- .gov or .mil – a US military or government webpage
- .net – a personal website
- .org – a website for a non-profit organization

Documentation: Is there adequate documentation for factual statements? Is the documentation reliable, verifiable from a second source? Is there enough information to cite this information in a paper (author, title, source, date)?

Currency: Is the information up to date? When was it created, last edited, etc.? Are the links up to date or dead? Is the author using outdated statistics?

Objectivity/Bias: Is the document biased or slanted? Are there few or no logical errors such as appeal to authority, circular reasoning, etc.? If you found this information in a printed source, would you trust it?

SITE LIMITING

Use site limiting to narrow your search to a specific domain or URL.

Use the advanced search to find more specific results.

In the advanced search you can specify:
- Domain
- Language
- Last Update
- File Type
KEYWORD SEARCHING

Phrase Searching
Phrase searching allows you to search for a phrase, as opposed to individual words. To complete a phrase search, use quotation marks around two or more word phrases. This will give you far more specific results.

Example: meat consumption = 1,187 results  
“meat consumption” = 432 results

Truncation
Truncation allows a researcher to search for multiple endings for a single word in a single search instead of trying spelling variations in multiple searches. Most databases require the use of the asterisk (*) as the truncation symbol. If you’re not sure what a database requires, consult a librarian or the Help Menu of the database.

Example: vegetar* finds items with the words vegetarian, vegetarianism, vegetarianismo, etc.

Choosing Keywords
Choosing your search words, or keywords, correctly can mean the difference between relevant and irrelevant results. Start with your thesis statement or question for inspiration on choosing keywords.

Example: What is the trend regarding meat consumption in the United States during the last ten years, what caused these changes, and how does this change impact the environment?

-> If this were your thesis statement, logical keywords and alternative keywords could be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“meat consumption”</th>
<th>environment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vegetarian*</td>
<td>“climate change”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Alternative keywords help to identify other words that may be used in articles to say the same thing. Choosing alternative keywords is almost as important as choosing your main search terms.

Boolean Logic
Using Boolean Logic in your advanced search means that you are using command words (Boolean operators) to connect your search terms. Boolean Logic allows you to conduct a more specific search and find relevant and specific information. The three Boolean operators are AND, OR, and NOT.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AND</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>NOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search Results will contain all terms used.</td>
<td>Search results will contain at least 1 term used.</td>
<td>Search results will not contain the eliminated word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“meat consumption” AND environment*</td>
<td>environment* OR “climate change”</td>
<td>“meat consumption” NOT pollution</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINDING ARTICLES

Periodicals
What is a periodical? Magazines, journals, and newspapers are called periodicals - and they do, in fact, come periodically. They are published at regular, periodic intervals throughout the year. Periodical articles are generally shorter, more current, and more focused on specific topics than books.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Magazines &amp; Newspapers</th>
<th>Trade Journals*</th>
<th>Scholarly &amp; Peer Reviewed Articles**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Audience</td>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>Professionals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Level</td>
<td>High School or Lower</td>
<td>High School or College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Documentation</td>
<td>None or Minimal Documentation</td>
<td>Some Documentation, but not Consistent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Authorship</td>
<td>Staff Reporter or Free-Lance Writer</td>
<td>Staff, Free-lance, or Contributing Professional Writer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Trade journals contain information for people working in a particular profession

**Scholarly or Peer Reviewed Articles have been reviewed by professionals in the same field as the author.

Finding Articles
BCC Libraries offer a variety of databases in which you can locate magazine, newspaper, trade, and scholarly journal articles. Please check our Databases by Subject, Research Subject Guides, and Databases A-Z in order to choose the most appropriate database.

-> BCC students have access to several subject specific databases through BCC Libraries. Subject specific databases enable you to search specific journals within your topic of research.

-> BCC Librarians have created multiple Research Subject Guides that will help you to choose the correct subject specific database.

-> Interlibrary Loan: Articles
As with books, BCC students can use Interlibrary loan to request journal, magazine, or newspaper articles.

The process is the same, though you would select “Periodicals” when choosing the format of your request. Several BCC Library databases allow you to place an Interlibrary Loan request directly through the database itself.
FINDING BOOKS & EBOOKS

The SAILS Library Catalog

Use the library catalog to find print books, electronic books, and streaming videos. The SAILS Library Catalog allows BCC students to request books from any SAILS Library through the catalog interface as long as the student has registered their BCC Campus Card.

Note: Students attending classes in Taunton may use the Taunton Public Library to pick up books requested through the SAILS Catalog.

Narrow to BCC Libraries

Click on more, then select the BCC Library most appropriate for your search. Narrowing to BCC Libraries after you have conducted your initial search will allow you to see what books you have immediate access to on each campus.

Call Numbers

To find books on the shelves at any BCC Library, you need the books’ call number. A call number is arranged within a system called the Library of Congress Classification system. But, do these numbers mean anything?

The first two letters are classifications based on the main subject and narrower subject of the book. The first set of numbers narrows the topic further. After the decimal, the next set of numbers is a code for the authors name. Sometimes a call number ends with the date of publication.

Main Subject (N=Fine Arts) Subheading (NB=Sculpture) Author’s last name initial & number code

NB1170 .S35 1993 Year of publication

Further refinement of subheading
MORE BOOKS & EBOOKS

Books & eBooks in the SAILS Library Catalog

In the SAILS Library Catalog you can narrow by format. Choosing a format allows you to determine what type of material you would like—be that physical books, electronic books, streaming videos, DVDs, or even audio books and other materials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Format</th>
<th>Include</th>
<th>Exclude</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
<td>35</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electronic Resource</td>
<td>26</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video recording</td>
<td>24</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Video disc</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audio disc</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More</td>
<td>View All</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

After conducting a search in the SAILS Library Catalog, choose to narrow by Format.

The selections on the left would bring back both physical books and electronic books.

ebrary

ebrary is an electronic book database to which Bristol Community College Libraries subscribes. You can locate ebrary books within the SAILS Library Catalog, or by going directly to the ebrary database on the A-Z Database page of the library website.

The full text of an electronic book can be searched in order to find the exact location within the text that pertains to your research. BCC students may also create a free account in order to highlight text, create bookshelves, and compose notes within the electronic books themselves.

The Commonwealth Catalog

If you can’t find the book you’re looking for in the SAILS Library Catalog or ebrary, the Commonwealth Catalog (http://www.commonwealthcatalog.org) will allow you request a book be delivered to your local BCC campus from anywhere in Massachusetts with your BCC Campus Card barcode.

-> Interlibrary Loan: Books

Interlibrary Loan is a system that allows you to request books not found in either the SAILS Library Catalog or the Commonwealth Catalog. You can request books by going to the BCC Library Homepage and clicking on Interlibrary Loan. To request books you will need your BCC Campus Card barcode number.

Streaming Videos

The Library subscribes to a streaming video database called Films on Demand (FOD). You can access FOD directly through our A-Z Database page, or through the SAILS Library Catalog.