Barnard Library: Finding the Best Resources
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STARTING YOUR RESEARCH

- **Online Research Guide:** On the library home page, click on “Find Books, Articles, and More” then click on “Research Guides.” Or click on “Research Guide” in CourseWorks.
- **Research Desk:** 212.854.3953, IM us using the box on the Contact Us page (library.barnard.edu/contact). Research desk hours are Mon-Thurs 9-9, Fri 9-6, Sat 1-6, Sun 3-8.
- **You Are Not Interrupting Us:** Remember - at the research desk, there are no stupid questions!
- **Consultations:** Request a one-on-one consultation with a Barnard librarian via the Contact Us page.
- **RefWorks:** A guide to this convenient way of saving your references and putting them into your papers is at library.barnard.edu/find-books/guides/refworks.

FINDING BOOKS

CLIO shows the titles of books and journals in the Columbia libraries, but NOT the articles in journals

**Title searching:** find the title of a book, journal, DVD, etc. Examples of three types of citations (in MLA style):

- **An article in a journal:** Christophersen, Bill. “Agnostic Tensions in Hawthorne’s Short Stories.” *American Literature* 72.3 (2000): 595-624.

**Keyword searching:** find words in any part of the record (title, subject, contents, author, publisher, etc.)

- Use quotes for a phrase, use ? for truncation (for variant endings): e.g. witch? finds witch, witchcraft, witches

**Keyword Boolean** searching: for a complex keyword search with ANDs, ORs, and NOTs

- AND finds records which have all the search terms you entered
- OR finds records which have one of the search terms you entered, as well as records which have more than one of the terms – OR finds MORE
- Group search terms together with parentheses: e.g. “colonial new england” AND (religio? OR church)

**Subject searching:** find books that are about a particular subject

- Uses Library of Congress controlled vocabulary: e.g. native americans is not a good subject search but indians of north america is
- Look for useful subdivisions: e.g. Indians of North America--New England--History--17th century

**Library of Congress (LC) Call Numbers:** N-Z on 2nd floor, A-M on 3rd floor of Barnard Library.

- In the LC classification system, the first number is a whole number (i.e. H5 is before H4501), but the number after the point is like a decimal (i.e. H8 .A4811 comes before H8 .A5).
- The call number reflects the first subject heading listed in the record.
**FINDING ARTICLES**

The **Library Databases** link on the Barnard Library home page gives you access to all the databases for finding scholarly journal articles, magazine and newspaper articles, archives, statistics, images, online encyclopedias and dictionaries, etc. If you are off campus, you must use your UNI and password to access (most of) them.

**Scholarly Journals vs. Popular Magazines**

Articles in scholarly journals (and books):
- have gone through the process of peer review as a quality-control mechanism
- are written in scholarly language for others familiar with the field
- have footnotes and references
- have an abstract (in the sciences and social sciences)
- provide the reader with the affiliation of the authors (university, research institute, etc.)

Popular magazines are written for a general audience, and the vocabulary is less specialized. They do not have footnotes or references, and are not peer-reviewed.

**Full Text Searches (can find too many irrelevant results)**

**Find Articles** (fourth, yellow, tab at the top of the library home page)
- Allows you to search across all the Columbia databases simultaneously.
- There are many useful features, like easy export to RefWorks
- Search example: **“hope leslie” puritan***

**Google Scholar**
- Only finds scholarly materials
- Go to Advanced Scholar Search, and set up your preferences, e.g. Show e-Link@Columbia, import to RefWorks.
- Search example: **inquision “new spain” “sor juana”**
- **LibX** is a Firefox plugin that works with Google Scholar, customized by Columbia University librarians.
  - Download the plugin from [www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio5119262](http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio5119262).
  - You can drag-and-drop titles from a webpage or a PDF to “Scholar” at the top right. Google Scholar then opens up, and automatically uses e-Link to link to articles for you.

**Suggested Individual Databases (with more refined searching)**

**Humanities Full Text**
- Abstracts and articles from journals covering archaeology, art, classics, film, folklore, journalism, linguistics, music, the performing arts, philosophy, religion, world history, and world literature.
- Search example: **“benito cereno” AND slave***

**MLA Bibliography**
- Citations only, for articles, books, book chapters, dissertations etc. on literature, linguistics, language and folklore published from 1963 to the present, many in foreign languages
- Search example: **“anne bradstreet” puritan***

**Proquest**
- Articles and abstracts for articles from newspapers, magazines and scholarly journals
- Search example: **“hope leslie” AND (gender OR wom*n)**

**JSTOR**
- Articles, no abstracts, from a large number of scholarly journals, from the beginning of the journal but excluding the most recent 3-5 years. JSTOR stands for “Journal Storage”
- Search example: **abolition* and quaker***