Information Sources

You may need to use many different information sources to fully research and understand a topic

• Reference tools:
• Books
• Journal articles
• Newspaper or popular magazine articles
• Information on the web
• Other (government documents, experts, media etc.)
Common Reference Tools

- Almanacs
- Atlases
- Bibliographies and indexes
- Dictionaries
- Directories
- Encyclopedias (general and subject)
- Handbooks
- Manuals
- Statistical sources
- Fact books

Reference Sources

- Cannot be checked out of the library
- Useful for:
  - Beginning research
  - Data and facts to support arguments
- NOT useful for:
  - Narrow research topics
  - Very recent data
Reference Sources

- Provide:
  - Background information
  - Topic overviews
  - Facts and details
  - Quick answers to questions
  - Statistics
  - Definitions

Finding Reference Sources

- Print/paper: in the Reference Area.
  Use library catalog to find call number
  OR browse the shelves!
  
  http://library.santarosa.edu/

- Online:
  - Some online equivalents
  - Library subscribes to some online reference sources
  - Dictionary/thesaurus web sites
  
  http://www.santarosa.edu/library/web/reference.html
Circulating Books

- Can be checked out from the library
- Useful for:
  - In-depth information on a topic
  - Can provide background information or overview
  - Lead to other related books
- NOT useful for:
  - Very recent data

Finding Books

- Use library catalog (OPAC) – click the BOOKS link on the library home page!
- JC library catalog is a database of records for all the materials held by the library:
  - Books and reference materials
  - Titles of magazine subscriptions
  - Titles of Newspaper subscriptions
  - Videos/DVDs/CDs
  - Documents etc.
- The library catalog is NOT for finding:
  - Specific full-text newspaper and journal articles
  - Web sites on the Internet
Finding Books

- Use library catalog (OPAC) to find books (etc.) and their call numbers
- Search by:
  - Title
  - Keyword Anywhere
  - Subject
  - Author
  - other

http://www.santarosa.edu/library/

- If you want a book that is not in the JC libraries, ask about Inter Library Loan

Periodical Articles

- Found in:
  Journals, magazines and newspapers
- Useful for:
  - Current information
  - Specific focus on subjects
  - Scholarly or Popular topics
  - Scholarly articles usually lead to further sources (references)
  - Scholarly written by specialists
  - Popular articles are more general
Finding Articles

- Accessible in online databases and in print format
- **Online Databases:** ARTICLES link on the library web site:
  - Recent articles in electronic format.
  - Full-text that you can print or e-mail to yourself.
- **Print indexes:** in Doyle Library Reference Area:
  - Are good for locating older information (prior to computerization in the early 80s)
  - Only list bibliographic citations (not full-text).
  - You have to locate the full article in the periodicals department (make sure the library subscribes to the periodical!).
  - Indexes can be subject specialty or general

Print Index Examples

**Henderson, Bill**
Tunnel through the wall. diag il *Model Railroader* v71 n07 p84-6 J 2004

**Henderson, Florence, 1934-**
about
Head of the House [TV moms] por *Biography (A&E)* p10-13 Spr 2004

**Henderson, Tony**
Interviews

**ALLODYNIA**
**DRUG THERAPY**
Botulinum toxin A improved burning pain and allodynia in two patients with spinal cord pathology (Jabbari B et al) (case study, pteronal) *PAIN MED* 2003 June; 4(2): 206-10 (53 ref)

**ALLOGRAFTS**
The safe and effective use of allograft tissue — an update (Barbour SA et al) (case study, review) *AM J SPORTS MED* 2003 Sep-Oct; 31(5): 791-7 (63 ref)
Online article databases

- Online databases are also called subscription databases.
- Accessible through the library web site.
- May have citations, abstracts (short summaries) or full text articles.
- You can search them using keywords.
- They contain more recent material.
- The library subscribes to many databases:
  - Newspaper and magazine
  - Social sciences
  - Science and technology
  - Health and medicine

Subscription Database Example
### Accessing subscription databases

- Off-campus access requires your Student ID and PIN numbers:
  
  - [http://www.santarosa.edu/library/](http://www.santarosa.edu/library/)
  

### Internet/WWW

- **Materials:** Anything and everything!
- **Useful for:**
  - Current (very up-to-date) information
  - Specific focus on subjects
  - General topics
  - Subjective/biased viewpoints
  - Opposing viewpoints!
- **To locate web materials use:**
  - Search engines (e.g. Google)
  - Subject directories ([http://www.dmoz.org/](http://www.dmoz.org/))