WS100D: Annotated Bibliography Topics & Sources

Joanne Oud, Women & Gender Studies Librarian
Key Tips

• Focus your topic
• Include intersectionality
• Use scholarly sources
FINDING & NARROWING A TOPIC
Broad vs Narrow Topics

• Broad topic: pay equity

• Narrower topic: effectiveness of equal pay laws in Canada
How Do I Narrow a Topic?

1. Brainstorm or do a library search
   - What could I say about this topic?

2. Pick one subtopic
   - Specify what, who, where, when you are talking about
Sample Brainstorm

TOPIC:

Representation of women in media
Go to library.wlu.ca
Type in search box in middle of page: women representation media
Click on Articles tab
Click on Peer reviewed (left menu)
Skim search results
What sub-topics do you find?
Intersectionality

Gender

Disability  Age

Religion  Race

Sexual orientation  Class
Strategies for Adding It

1. Pick a group with intersecting marginalized identities
   • e.g. Muslim women

2. Consider how some groups experience your topic differently
   • e.g. body image
Add Intersectionality

TOPIC:

Representation of women in media
Ask a Question

Narrow topic:
Women are paid less than men in Canada

Possible questions:
• Why are women paid less?
• Why are racialized women paid less than white women?
• Have equal pay laws in Canada helped?
Why Ask a Question?

- Easier to find & evaluate sources
  - look for those that help answer your question
- Easier to write your annotations
  - how does this help answer my question?
- Helps organize your paper
  - thesis = answer to your question in 1 sentence
Your Turn: Topics

- Complete worksheet for your topic
- Groups of 2-3
FINDING SCHOLARLY SOURCES
What is a Scholarly Source?

- Written by university researchers for other university researchers
- Scholarly language
- Original research or analysis
- Cites other scholarly sources
- Peer review process
Google & Scholarly Sources

Invisible web
Specialized search tools (databases)

Visible web
Google
Where to Search

**Books & articles**

Databases: subjects & titles

Journal titles

Subject & course guides

Archives & special collections

**Primo search**

Search Primo

Search books, articles, and more.
Your Turn: Finding Sources

- Go to library.wlu.ca
- Find 2-3 sources that help answer your question
- Remember: limit to peer-reviewed
WRITING ANNOTATIONS
This study examined sleep patterns for 1,125 U.S. university students. The main relevant finding was that tension and stress cause 24% of sleep problems for students. The authors also found that exercise, alcohol and caffeine didn’t significantly affect sleep quality. The study is important because it looks at factors that other studies have overlooked, such as exercise and stress.
Good Annotated Bibliographies

• Use good sources:
  – Scholarly
  – Help answer research question

• Cite properly

• Have concise, analytical annotations
Information from database:
Canada's bold experiment with pay equity
Parbudyal Singh; Ping Peng

MLA format:
Citing with MS Word
This study examined sleep patterns for 1,125 U.S. university students. The main relevant finding was that tension and stress cause 24% of sleep problems for students. The authors also found that exercise, alcohol and caffeine didn’t significantly affect sleep quality.

The study is important because it looks at factors that other studies have overlooked, such as exercise and stress.

This study examined sleep patterns for 1,125 U.S. university students. The main relevant finding was that tension and stress cause 24% of sleep problems for students. The authors also found that exercise, alcohol and caffeine didn’t significantly affect sleep quality. The study is important because it looks at factors that other studies have overlooked, such as exercise and stress.
Annotation Tips

• Summary
  – How main arguments relate to your question

• Evaluation
  – How it helps answer your question
  – Analysis of main arguments, methods
  – How it relates to other sources
More Help

- See WS100D course guide (Services—Course Guides—WS100D)
  - topic & research question
  - finding sources
  - citing
  - annotated bibliography (includes worksheet)

- Ask me!
  - Joanne Oud, joud@wlu.ca