Searching for LIS Research Articles

A. Databases: [available from quick list from the GSLIS Collection Homepage]

- o LISA: Library and Information Science Abstracts
- o Library Literature
- o LISTA: Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts

   Note: It is important to search all 3 since although there is overlap in journal coverage, there are unique journal titles for each 3

B. Search techniques
   - o Use truncation to expand searches to ensure better retrieval rate
   - o Use Boolean operators to combine search terms

C. Become familiar with LIS research literature recognizing journals which tend to include research and those that do not

   1. Familiarize yourself with the "Selected Core List of Journals Containing Research" but don't limit your searching to them since it is just a core list

D. Browsing for topic

   1. Example: college and research libraries or journal of academic librarianship in journal name field

   2. Add topic for preliminary look, e.g. reference interview* or reference quer* or reference interaction* in the title field

   3. Limit by peer reviewed journals

   4. Use ArticleNow to look at fulltext article to make sure your results are research articles

E. Searching for chosen topic

   1. Use synonyms and truncation for your topic to ensure best retrieval rate; place terms in title field. Note, if you are modifying a subject, i.e. digital or virtual or chat with reference interview, you may want to put the modifying terms, i.e. digital or virtual etc. in the abstract field.

   2. Research is not a subject term, also known as descriptor*, in these databases to

retrieve research studies

3. Use terms such as survey*, "research study", use stud*, case study, citation analysis, user survey*,etc in keyword field. Note when searching Library Literature; be aware if you search these terms in the abstract field, you won't be searching all entries available in the databases since not all articles include abstracts.   Place your terms in the keyword field to retrieve more results when using this database

4. Other terms to use when appropriate are usability testing or information seeking, (synonyms include information needs, information-seeking behavior, Delphi method or technique, etc.)

5. Limit to peer reviewed journals

6. Use ArticleNow to look at fulltext article to make sure your results are research Articles

F. To expand results after searching the 3 LIS databases, search Dissertations and Thesis Fulltext to uncover any additional useful literature reviews and use the "Cited Reference" feature in LISTA to locate other similar articles.

*Research-related descriptor terms in LISA are:

o Surveys
o User surveys
o Citation analysis
o Information seeking behaviour
o Evaluation
o Bibliometrics