Locating LIS Research Articles

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE RESEARCH

A. Access and use of LIS database

1. Use the following LIS Databases: [available the E-Resources drop-down menu from the Library & Information Science Gateway: http://www.simmons.edu/library/resources/lis.php

   o LISA: Library and Information Science Abstracts (the best)
   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 and currency of updating varies

B. Search techniques

1. Use truncation to expand searches to ensure better retrieval rate
2. Use Boolean operators to combine search terms

3. When articulating a search string, think of synonyms including broader and narrower terms, i.e. if looking for research articles on services for Somali in public libraries use:

immigrant* or refugee* or non-citizen* or foreign-born or Somali* (or other groups representing the particular community)

4. Use the keyword grid to plan your search

C. Become familiar with LIS research literature recognizing journals which tend to include

1. Consult the Selected Core List of Journals Containing Research Articles

D. Ways to identify a research topic:

1. Ideas form from class discussion or readings
2. Your actual experience as a user or staff in a library
3. Browse list of research articles by subject compiled from past students
4. Browse for topic in the LIS journals

   o Example: college and research libraries or journal of academic librarianship in journal name field (if interested in academic libraries)

   o Examples: library and information science research or libres or information research in journal name field (if interested in seeing what kinds of research topic have been done across all library types)

   o Add topic for preliminary look, e.g. reference interview* or reference quer* or reference interaction* in the title field then keyword field but note that results will be limited since you are not searching all journals

E. Searching on a specific topic

   o Formulate your search using the keyword grid concept

- Use the terms **research** or **study** in one of the search boxes (these terms tend to retrieve research when coupled with limiting results to peer-reviewed) note, there aren't any reliable subject headings for research

- Use the search techniques mentioned previously

- Run the searches using different fields, i.e. not everything in the title field but look at variations

- Limited to peer-reviewed, note in LISA that is done after the search is run

- Look at the number of pages, a small number would indicate a summary report

- Read the abstract for relevancy

- Use ArticleNow to look at fulltext article to make sure your results are research articles (look for evidence of a problem statement, literature review, research questions, data collection methodology, etc.

F. Conducting a literature review:

- Search all 3 LIS databases for relevant articles, each indexes some journals not indexed by the other 2 databases
- Cull relevant research articles from lit review articles and from research articles on your topic
- Use the "cited references" feature in LISTA to identify any articles that have cited the research articles you find relevant remembering that both research and non-research articles will be included
- Use SSCI (Social Sciences Citation Index or Google Scholar to identify other citing articles

Questions? Get in touch with Linda Watkins, GSLIS Librarian

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