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LIBR 210-01

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Investigation #2: Library Orientation Exercise for SJSU Freshman in Introductory English and Comparative Literature Courses

Welcome to the SJSU King Library English and Comparative Literature orientation. Today we will explore some of the many valuable resources that are available to you as a SJSU student. Before we begin, I would like each of you to think of either a recent or upcoming research paper topic that you have developed for this course. Each of you will use your unique topic of interest to guide you through this exercise.

It is my hope that by the end of today, each of you will be not just aware of the many resources available to you, but also will have the knowledge to conduct future scholarly research that will lead you to success in this course and future ones. Remember that you are never alone on your journey for information; if you get stuck, befuddled, or confused at any point, please do not hesitate to ask any of your reference librarians for assistance.

Note: You must have an established Library PIN in order to access many of the resources covered in this orientation. If you have not yet set up a Library PIN, please follow the steps outlined [here](https://library.sjsu.edu/get-library-card/my-library-account-pin-management) to do so.

1) Using your research topic and the King Library [catalog](http://discover.sjlibrary.org/iii/encore_sjsu/?lang=eng), locate onerelevantbook resource (not electronic). For this search I would like you to conduct a general “keyword” search, which means you can determine which terms to put into the search bar to locate results. When you have located a relevant book, click on the title of it to open up the record in order to answer the following questions:

1. Where would you go to find this book in the library? Can it be found in multiple locations or only one?
2. What is the call number of the book?
3. What is the status of availability of the book? Can it be checked out, or is it for library use only?
4. What are the publication details of this book? (for example: author(s), editor(s), publisher, year published)
5. List the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) given for this book. Take a close look at these subject headings. Are there any that appear to be broader (more general) than your topic? Are there any that appear narrower (more specific) than your topic?
6. What actions can you take to save this particular record so that it can be accessed again by you at a later time?

Note: This exercise is developed specifically for freshman students, who will presumably be coming from a mixed background of information literacy and library research instruction. The purpose of this question is to give every student, no matter their previous instruction regarding library related research, an opportunity to conduct a basic book search on the library catalog. The purpose of the subquestions related to this exercise is to make the student aware of the several pieces of information that are available on a library catalog book record. This information not only includes where the item can be found (location, call number, and availability), but also information about the publication, and the LCSH’s which we will use later on in this orientation. Additionally, students are asked to explore ways that they can access records later (which can be done through saving to card or e-mail), which highlights a particular function available on the record that students may not be aware of.

2) Using one of the Library of Congress Subject Headings you made note of from question 1, I would like you to conduct “subject” searches on the Library catalog and the Link+ catalog. In order to conduct a subject search on the SJSU Library catalog, you must go to the [advanced search](http://discover.sjlibrary.org/iii/encore_sjsu/HomePage%2CadvancedQueryComponent.searchFormComponent.sdirect) window, and change the first drop down box of “keyword” to “subject”. Enter your LCSH into the search bar next to this and hit the search button. In order to conduct a search on the [Link+ catalog](http://csul.iii.com/), you must select the drop down menu that says “keyword” and select “subject”. Enter your LCSH into the search bar and hit the submit button.

1. Compare and contrast results from these two searches. How many results are there from the SJSU catalog? How many from the Link+ catalog? What are some differences you notice between how results from your searches are displayed on these two catalogs?
2. Locate one book that is available from Link+ that is *not*available from SJSU. Click on the record to display the Link+ record.
3. How many Link+ libraries own this book?
4. How can you be sure that this item isn’t owned by SJSU? Can you list some of the libraries where this book is owned?
5. What pieces of information are required of you to request this book?

Note: The purpose of this question is to make students aware of book resources available to them outside of SJSU holdings. Link+ is a good source for materials that cannot be found at the SJSU King Library. As the Link+ catalog is quite different than the SJSU catalog, this exercise and the related questions are used to get students accustomed to the differences in look and how information is displayed between the two. Additionally, this question also directs students to the process of requesting items using this service.

3) Using either a keyword or subject search about your particular topic, locate one electronic book in the SJSU catalog.

1. What information is required for you to check out this eBook?
2. Check out the eBook:
3. What platform(s) can this eBook be read on?
4. Can this eBook be downloaded and/or saved to your computer?
5. How long can you have this book checked out for?
6. Can you search through this eBook?
7. Look through the Table of Contents and/or the Index of the eBook and locate a chapter or a specific page number of term related to your topic.
8. Is there a way to add your own notes to the eBook?
9. Are there any other special features available for this eBook? (Examples: ability to highlight, print pages, change display font size, etc.)

Note: Today there are several different formats available in the library. Often students don’t realize they do not have to leave the comfort of their homes when looking for books from the library catalog. There are many electronic books available for SJSU students in the library catalog. The purpose of this question is for students to identify an electronic book from their search in the library catalog, and to experience the process of checking it out. Additionally, eBooks are available from the SJSU library from different vendors, which display their content differently, provide different formats, and have different features available. Allowing students the opportunity to explore an eBook and answer questions about these differences gives them an experience of what can and cannot be done with these resources.

4) [Literature Online Reference Edition](http://lionreference.chadwyck.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/) is a resource available to you as a SJSU student. Included in this database are articles of literary criticism, references titles, biographies, and websites. Using this database and your topic, search the [Criticism](http://lionreference.chadwyck.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/initCritRefSearch.do?listType=abell) portion of this website to locate onearticle. As you can see there are several ways to locate articles, searching by keyword(s), subject, journal, publication year, etc. It is suggested you “Limit To” only articles, as that is what I would like you to find. Select an article that has the full text icon next to it.

1. What is the title of this article?
2. Who is the author of this article?
3. Which journal is this article published in? When was it published? How many pages long is it?
4. What type of information is included in the full record for this article?
5. What is the durable URL for this article?
6. In what ways can this article be saved or accessed by you at a later time? What formats is the full text available in?
7. Were you able to find more or less information related to your topic using this particular database compared with the results from your library catalog searches?

Note: The purpose of this question is to introduce students to a database related to their subject area, and to locate articles of criticism related to their topic of choice. This gives students the opportunity to navigate one database, and to explore the different features available on it. The questions serve as a way to guide students to the different aspects of an article record from the database that will be most useful in their research and bibliography construction.

5) For much of your academic career here at SJSU your professors will require you to find articles for assignments, papers, and projects from scholarly journals with a peer-review or refereed review process. One way to determine if a journal is scholarly and peer-reviewed/refereed is by using the electronic resource, Ulrich’s Periodicals Directory. Using the library catalog, search for this resource and log-in to access it. Now using the article you found for question 4, search for the title of the journal, and select it from the results list to answer the following questions:

1. Where is this journal published?
2. Is this journal refereed or peer-reviewed? How can you determine this?
3. How often is the journal published?
4. Who is the publisher of this journal?
5. What is the type of content of this journal?
6. Is there a website available for this journal?
7. Based on this information, would you consider using an article from this publication for a course assignment, project or paper? Why or why not?

Note: The purpose of this question is to introduce students to the electronic resource Ulrich’s Periodical Directory, and to become familiar with its features. As mentioned in the question, professors will require students to find scholarly and peer-reviewed works for assignments, papers, and projects, so it is of utmost importance that students are aware of an important resource that can help them find out this information. The exercise and the follow-up questions about a particular periodical serve to guide students to where the most pertinent information for them is located in an entry. It is important to give incoming students this important evaluation skill that will be required of them no matter what discipline they later chose to pursue.

6) Using the library catalog, locate the electronic resource *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*. Conduct a few searches on the online encyclopedia based on your topic or based on content from your course material. Look at three different entries in the encyclopedia. Now, conduct the same searches on the free, wiki-encyclopedia, [Wikipedia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page).

1. Compare and contrast your experiences with using these different encyclopedias.
2. Was the information the same on both resources, or different?
3. Was there more information in one resource than the other? What kind?
4. How was your experience using the sites? Was one easier or harder to navigate? Did you like the layout, search options, etc. on one resource more than the other? Why?
5. Did the information seem more reliable or trustworthy on one resource than the other? Why?
6. Are there any special features that you noticed on the *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online* site? Did you like these? Why or why not?
7. Are there any special features that you noticed on Wikipedia? Did you like these? Why or why not?

Note: The purpose of this question is two-fold. Firstly, it is two make students aware of an important paid resource, *Encyclopaedia Britannica Online*, available to them through the library. Secondly, it is an exercise for students to compare and contrast the differences between a free wiki format encyclopedia, Wikipedia, and a paid resource. Thinking of the differences between these two resources will provide students with the beginning skills needed to critically evaluate which will best serve their information needs. It is my hope that in this direct comparison, students will see the quality of paid resources available to them, and will seek out other such resources as a result.

7) It is sometimes the case that when you are looking for articles in a database, there is a record and citation listed, but no access to the full text. At SJSU we have a special feature called “GetText” in our electronic databases that will search for the full text in other databases that we own. To see how this works, first you must conduct a search in database. This time we will use a general research database called [Academic Search Premier](http://library.calstate.edu/sanjose/databases/proxy/CAL10949). Using your topic, conduct a search using the search boxes on the site. In your results lists, you should notice a yellow button with the words “GetText” located where links to the full text would normally be. Click on one such button of any item in your results list to answer the following:

1. What happens when you click on the GetText button?
2. Which other database or databases can you find the full text of the article at?
3. Were there any special directions in the GetText window?
4. Try to get the full text of the article you selected from one of the databases listed.
5. Did you encounter any difficulties? If yes, what were they?
6. Did you notice or use any special features listed on the GetText page? What were they? Would you use this feature? Why or why not?

Note: SJSU provides access to many databases. Often students do not realize that all databases do not provide full text for every single citation in it. As such, the purpose of this question is to direct students’ attention to the potentially overlooked feature of GetText. Additionally, this question also introduces students to a different database, Academic Search Premier, which for the purposes of undergraduates will be of much use for this subject area and others. The questions for this exercise allow students to experience what is like using the GetText feature, but also acknowledges that this system isn’t always straightforward or easy to use.

8) First sign up for a new account on the citation management tool, RefWorks [here](https://www-refworks-com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/refworks2/default.aspx?r=authentication::init&groupcode=RWSJSU). You will need a group code from the Library which can be obtained [here](http://library.sjsu.edu/electronic-journals-index/get-library-passwords). After you have completed these steps, search for articles related to your topic on [Academic Search Premier](https://login.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/login?qurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ebscohost.com%2flogin.aspx%3fauthtype%3dip%2cuid%26profile%3dehost%26defaultdb%3daph). Open up the records for three articles. From here I would like you to direct export (located on right hand margin under “Tools”) the citations for each of these articles into you RefWorks account. Once you are done, go to the RefWorks website to answer these questions:

1. What do you think the purpose of exporting citations to RefWorks is?
2. Name some of the different ways you can sort your references.
3. What are some features of RefWorks that you noticed? Would you use these? Why or why not?
4. What was your experience using the RefWorks site? Was the layout clear? Did you find anything confusing? Was there anything you particularly enjoyed?
5. Create a bibliography for your three citations. What are the different styles that your bibliography can be output into? What type of files can your bibliography be saved as?
6. After reviewing your created bibliography into MLA, do you notice any errors or discrepancies? If yes, what are they?

Note: There are several citation management tools available today. RefWorks is a popular tool that is provided for all SJSU students for free. The purpose of this exercise and question is to have students set up a RefWorks account, allow them to experience what it is like to export citations from an electronic database, and to explore the different features of RefWorks. Many of the features on RefWorks will not be needed by students, but I include a question about creating a bibliography to guide them to a feature that will be of most use to them. Additionally, I provided questions that allow students to evaluate the usefulness of the site to them, allowing them to develop beginning critical evaluation skills of such resources.

9) In English and Comparative Literature courses, you will often be asked not only to locate scholarly, peer-reviewed articles and criticism for assignments, papers, and projects, but you may also be required to locate reviews of books and other materials. There are two databases of note that will help you locate such reviews: [Book Review Digest Plus](http://web.a.ebscohost.com.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/ehost/search/advanced?sid=307328d4-db34-45bc-a030-149938a870b2%40sessionmgr4001&vid=1&hid=4109) and [Book Review Digest Retrospective: 1905-1982](http://library.calstate.edu/sanjose/databases/proxy/CAL14409) (older reviews). Using the title of a text from your course or a past course, locate onereview of it using either of these databases.

1. Who is the author of this review?
2. In what periodical is this review published?
3. When was this review published?
4. Did you encounter any difficulties locating reviews?
5. Was the full text available for this review? If no, is it available with GetText?

Note: The purpose of the exercise and question is the make students aware of two important book review databases available to them. As mentioned in the exercise portion of this question, often book reviews are required for English and Comparative Literature courses, so it is crucial that students be aware of where and how to find such reviews. These questions guide students to the key pieces of information regarding the records of available book reviews in this database.

10) A free resource that you can use to locate books, articles, and citations about your research topic is [Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com/). In order to use this service, you must have a Google account. The first time you use Google Scholar you must add San Jose State University to your “Library links”. This is found under the settings area. In the search box, enter San Jose State University, then click the search button. A result for “San Jose State University- SJSU GetText” should show up. Click the box next to it, and then click on the blue save button. Now you are ready to search for resources. Complete a keyword search related to your topic. In order to find works available to you through SJSU, scroll through results until you see the “SJSU GetText” link on the right-hand side of the article citation details. Click on this link to answer the following:

1. Where you able to access a full text version of the article from SJSU? Were you able to access a full text version of an article elsewhere?
2. Which SJSU database(s) is the article available from?
3. What is your overall impression of using Google Scholar to locate articles related to your topic? Did you enjoy the experience? Why or why not?
4. What special features do you see available on Google Scholar? Would you use any of these? Why or why not?
5. How many results did your get for your search? How does this compare to search on specific databases such as Academic Search Premier? What experience do you prefer and why?

Note: Google Scholar is a free and popular search engine that located books, articles, and citations. The purpose of this exercise and the following questions was to introduce students to this resource, set-up their accounts to specifically search SJSU Library databases, and to allow them to experience conducting searches using the site. Additionally, I wanted students to compare their experience using other library databases to search for resources to that of using Google Scholar. Often Google is the first place that students turn to for research, and I wanted them to experience first-hand the differences between the quality of results, ease of usability, features, and accessibility of paid library resources available to them, as opposed to free, commercial sites. It is my hope that this exercise will help students to further develop critical evaluation skills of databases and search engines in regards to scholarly application.