HLSC 101: Introduction to Health Sciences

“What’s an academic library for, anyway?”

Scott Curtis, UMKC Miller Nichols Library
Google is great, Google is terrible!

- Google “hormone replacement therapy menopause”
  - Get about 1,070,000 results, .orgs, .coms, YouTubes, etc. - sorted and prioritized by an algorithm no one outside Google understands.

- Use ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Science database
  - Search for terms “hormone replacement therapy” AND “menopause” within article abstracts
  - Limit to scholarly, peer-reviewed articles, find 155 articles - on-topic, authoritative, and online-accessible through UMKC Libraries.

- What helps you more?
Types of Searching at UMKC Libraries

- You want to “search like Google” but find things at UMKC Libraries - RooSearch
- You want to find articles using a subject-specific database, with a familiar keyword searching feel - ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Science
- You want to probe a subject in-depth, using precise search techniques to return highly relevant results - PubMed using MeSH
First Steps - RooSearch

- All results returned by RooSearch are available through UMKC Libraries.
- Some are full text online, some are in print, some are audio or video items.
- *Just like Google*, you can use AND, OR, and NOT to make a search statement.
- *Unlike Google*, you can then use limiters to improve your results!
Key **RooSearch** Limiters

**Peer-review**: Article reviewed by field experts prior to publication, an assurance that a journal article meets discipline expectations for research.

**Journal Article**: Book reviews, “newsy” articles are generally not acceptable for academic research papers. Limit results to scholarly journals.

**Publication Date**: Understand how to set the date range for results so that you don’t read out-of-date information.

**Discipline** and **Subject Terms** - These limiters help improve the “aboutness” of results, so articles returned aren’t just free-text searches of the keywords.
Don’t believe everything you read!

- View results using **critical thinking skills**
  - What **type of resource** is this? *Is it a scholarly, peer-reviewed, academic journal article as required for the assignment?*
  - Who is the author or authors?
  - Is this a “mainstream” result or “fringe science”?*
  - Is the author trying to sell me (or persuade me of) something? Is there bias in the authors’ point of view?
How to select a great article!

- Read **abstracts** of several “interesting” paper titles before making your decision. *Abstracts take 10 minutes (or less!) to read and can save you an hour of wasted time reading something that won’t work for you.*
- Check out papers in “References” section at end of article - do they look interesting?
Next step - beyond full-text searches

UMKC Libraries provide access to a number of subject-specific databases.

You can search key information types related to articles - for more efficient (and faster) results.

Results from databases are:

- Accurate
- Authoritative
- Academically focused - use Peer Review limiters!

Let’s look at ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Source.
Key ProQuest Limiters

**Abstract**: If the key terms are in the abstract, the results are more likely “about” them.

**Peer-review**: Article reviewed by field experts prior to publication, an assurance that a journal article meets discipline expectations for research.

**Publication Date**: Understand how to set the date range for results so that you don’t read out-of-date information.

**Scholarly Journals**: Limits results (after search) to articles relevant for academic research papers and your assignment.
Search Like a Pro...

PubMed, from the U.S. National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health, allows you to search through over 24 million citations in the biomedical literature. From the PubMed interface you can use MeSH, Medical Subject Headings, to search using controlled vocabulary. MeSH searching is more precise than keyword searching. This means more articles “about” your topic, faster. You can use MeSH searching in ProQuest Nursing & Allied Health Science database as well. However, PubMed allows you to search and discover MeSH terms easily, along with definitions and related subject terms.
Know Your Librarian

Sue Sykes Berry is your department’s subject liaison at the library. Her office is at the Health Sciences Library on Hospital Hill. Contact her with any questions about doing research.

I am also happy to answer your questions or to meet with you individually here at Miller Nichols Library. Here’s how to contact me.
Use Information Ethically!

- **Plagiarism** - also see this [UMKC Research Guide](http://example.com).

- **Copyright**
  - Here’s a [fun interactive tutorial](http://example.com) from Acadia University (Canada)
Questions?