### Introduction to Research

**University of Manitoba: New Students**

**So you have to write an essay?**

Academic essays will be the most common assignment in your history courses. Therefore it is important that you know where and how to find good research material. Most often your professor is going ask you to support a thesis and to do this you will need to back up your argument with information from reputable books and articles. The library is your best source for good academic material.

**Books and E-Books**

You can search amongst the hundreds of thousands of books at Elizabeth Dafoe Library using our library catalogue. The library also provides access to thousands of ebooks which you can read from any location on or off campus, as long as you have access to the internet. In some cases you can even download ebooks to read on your computer or tablet.

**Articles, Journals and Databases**

Academic journals will be very important sources of research so you will need to get used to searching for articles using **One Stop Search**. Scholars and researchers from universities around the world publish their writing in academic journals. University of Manitoba Libraries provide you access to these journals through various databases.

If you are confused, think about it this way…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articles are written by scholars.</th>
<th>Article Name: “The Question of Palestine and the United States Behavior at the United Nations”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Articles are published in journals.</td>
<td>Journal Name: International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society</td>
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<tr>
<td>Journals can be found in databases.</td>
<td>Database Name: JSTOR: Arts and Science</td>
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In One Stop Search it looks like this…

There are many types of articles. Your professors are likely to want you to consult articles that are in **Peer Reviewed Journals**. Articles in these journals have been evaluated by other academics and subject area specialists before they are approved for publication. There are other types of articles that you will find in the catalogue, including: newspaper articles, magazine articles, and book reviews. It is safe to assume that articles in peer reviewed journal are ok to use for your papers. (Keep in mind that it will be up to you to decide whether the arguments made in these articles are good arguments).

**Primary Resources**

Primary resources are documents that have been created by someone who directly experienced an event. This could include:

- Personal accounts
- Interviews
- Journals (diaries)
- Letters
- Newspaper articles
- Government documents
- Video and audio recordings
- Photographs

You can access databases that provide access to primary sources at the History subject guide under the Primary Sources tab:


**What About Google?**

While Google is a very useful tool for finding information it does not provide access to the academic materials offered by the library unless the resource is freely accessible through [Google Scholar](http://scholar.google.com). As a rule start your research at the library and consult Google only if you cannot find what you are looking for in the catalogue, One Stop Search, or academic databases.
Citations and Plagiarism

Using proper citation methods is the best way to avoid accidental plagiarism in your essays. History papers require Chicago/Turabian style, however you should check with your instructor to be sure. University of Manitoba Libraries has several citation guides available.

Chicago/Turabian Style Guide
MLA Style Guide (Modern Language Association)
APA Style Guide (American Psychological Association)
Other Style Guides (AAA, ACS, AMA, CBE, Harvard, IEEE, Vancouver)

In addition to the above list of style guides, Purdue University maintains an excellent research and citation resource at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/

Citation Management Software

There are a couple of citation management software options available to you that will help to generate citations for you. The most popular are:

- Refworks (Write-N-Cite)
- Zotero
- Endnote
- Mendeley

If you are new to citation software you may want to start with using Refworks and Write-N-Cite. With refworks you can keep a list of resources you are using for your research and the software will automatically generate citations for you. (Note: the software is not flawless and it is recommended that you check the citations generated by citation managers for accuracy.)