

COMM 101 Library Exercise Worksheet

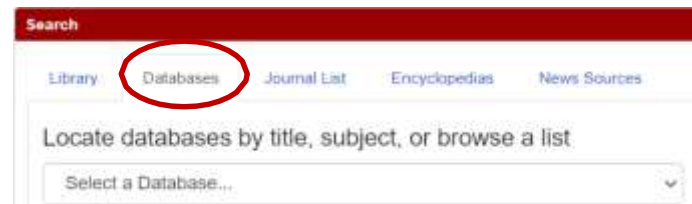
This worksheet is intended to help you begin research on your topic of interest by using appropriate research resources.

This assignment is due on _____ (date).

To successfully complete this assignment:

- Complete ALL questions on the worksheet.
- Print the FIRST PAGE or database CITATION of each resource as directed in the worksheet and staple to this worksheet. (4 printouts total from Academic Search Complete, NexisUni, Statista, Google)
- When you have completed the worksheet, you will consult with a librarian at the Research Desk and obtain a signature.
- It is highly recommended that you consult with a librarian before the assignment due date (i.e. not the day it is due) as there may be other students needing assistance at the same time. Research desk hours: library.monmouthcollege.edu/home/reference.

The **databases** used in this assignment can be found on the Monmouth College Library homepage: library.monmouthcollege.edu

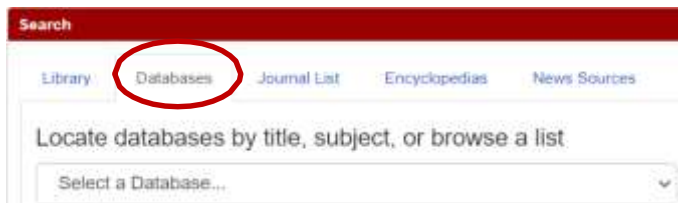


Final Reflections: *AFTER completing this worksheet, please reflect on these final questions.*

1. What did you find that you are certain you WILL USE in your speech? Explain why you think this is a good source to use in your speech.
2. What did you find that you WON'T USE? Explain why you think it is not a valuable source to use in your speech.
3. On a scale from 1 - 5, how challenging was completing the library worksheet for you? Explain (1 = not challenging to 5 = very challenging)

Academic Search Complete - Find Popular and Scholarly Articles

1. Locate the database **Academic Search Complete** alphabetically from the **Databases** tab on the Library homepage (directions on page 1).



2. Conduct SEVERAL SEARCHES. What words did you use in your search(es)?

3. Choose ONE interesting and relevant item from your search. **PRINT** the citation from the database and complete the information below.

Article Title : _____

Author : _____

Source (Name of Magazine or Journal) : _____

Volume / Issue / Date : _____

4. Find the **SUBJECT TERMS** listed in the citation of the article you found. Write down the SUBJECT TERMS that seem helpful to you.



5. Is the citation you found from a **SCHOLARLY PEER-REVIEWED** or **POPULAR** journal?

Scholarly = academic, peer-reviewed Non-Scholarly (popular) = news, magazine, trade periodical

6. Name TWO clues that help you determine your answer above.

Please print the database citation of the article you found.

Identifying Keywords

Think about the information you located in the **Academic Search Complete** database.

Did you identify additional keywords or phrases that you can now add to your research?

Sample topic: How does driving under the influence of marijuana affect drivers?

CONCEPT 1 + synonyms marijuana cannabis	CONCEPT 2 + synonyms drive car auto*
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Write YOUR topic keywords in the table below, and then brainstorm SYNONYMS. You may have more or fewer words than in the example, and that's OK!

CONCEPT 1 + synonyms	CONCEPT 2 + synonyms	CONCEPT 3 + synonyms	etc	

Practice combining your concepts into **search statements** using **AND** and **OR** into the boxes below. This is how you will type keywords into a research database.

marijuana OR cannabis	
AND ▾ driv* OR car OR auto*	AND ▾
	AND ▾
	AND ▾
	AND ▾

Nexis Uni - News Information

1. Locate the database **Nexis Uni** from the **Databases** tab on the Library homepage (directions on page 1).
2. Look at the KEYWORDS and SEARCH STATEMENT you brainstormed on page 3. Conduct SEVERAL SEARCHES to locate one relevant news article on your topic. Remember: you can limit a search to a state or a specific newspaper. Try different types of searches!
3. What words did you use in your search(es)?
4. Choose ONE interesting and relevant item from your search. **PRINT** the citation from the database and complete the information below.

Article Title / Headline: _____

Author / Byline : _____

Source (Name of Publication) : _____

Date of Publication : _____ Page Number (if any) : _____

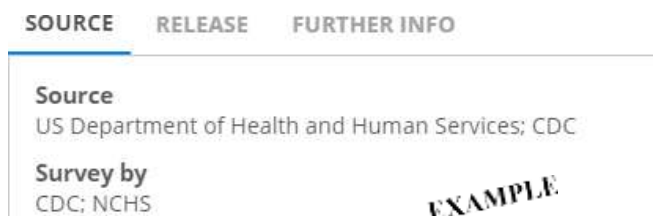
Did you print the first page (or database citation) of the article you found?

Statista - Statistical Information



1. Locate the database **Statista** on the Library homepage (directions on page 1).
2. Consider the keywords and search statements you brainstormed on page 3.
3. Conduct SEVERAL SEARCHES. **Note:** Statista does not interpret Boolean operators (AND OR), so you may need to conduct separate searches using synonyms one at a time. What words did you use in your search(es)?

4. Choose ONE interesting and relevant item from your search. **PRINT** the citation from the database and complete the information below.
 - a. What is the TITLE of the chart? (Hint: above the chart)
 - b. What is the SOURCE of the statistic you found? (Hint: see below)



The SOURCE box can be found on the right side of most Statista charts. Statista is NOT the creator of this information, it simply provides access. When you cite this source, you WILL NOT cite Statista, but rather the SOURCE!

5. In your own words describe what the chart is measuring.

Did you print the chart/image for the statistic you found?

Google

1. Look back on the information you found on the databases (Academic Search Complete, Nexis Uni and Statista). Choose ONE piece of information you located in a database that you would like to know more about. In a few sentences, please DESCRIBE the piece of information you chose to investigate and WHY you chose to investigate it.

Example: *My news article quoted a statistic from NCAA Sports Science Institute. I want to find what this center does and what information they provide.*

2. Conduct a Google search for something related to what you wrote above. Select one website and answer these questions:

- URL:
- Notice the domain (.edu .gov . com). Why is it useful to notice this?
- Author / Publisher / Parent Organization (Who is responsible for this web content?):

3. Do you think this website is RELIABLE? YES or NO

Think about the evaluation criteria we discussed in class: Who is the author or publisher? Who is the intended audience? What is the intent? Is the information current? Can you verify the information somewhere else?

4. Give your reasons below why you think the website IS or IS NOT RELIABLE.

Did you print the first page of the webpage you found?