
Workshop Objectives:

This guide covers the essential steps to follow and research tools to use when you start on library research in architecture:

TASK: Chose and refine a topic

TOOL: Encyclopedias, Dictionaries. Web search engine, guides

Browse general overviews or surveys in encyclopedias, dictionaries, texts or Web sites that present ideas in your subject area. These publications provide general background information, images, and diagrams on a topic. They can help you identify key issues and themes and define terms and concepts. They often include bibliographies or lists of resources for more information.

EXAMPLES:

- Grove Art Online. <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/lml/e%2Dresources/grovesart.html>
- Gale Virtual Reference Library <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/GaleVirtRef.html>
- *International Dictionary of Architects and Architecture* (APL Ref NA 40 I48 1993), vol. 1-2
- *Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects* (APL Ref NA 40 M25 1982) Vol. 1-4
- *Contemporary Architects* (APL Ref NA40 .C6 1987, 1980)
- *Time-saver Standards for Urban Design* (APL, LML Ref HT166 .T47 2003)
- Google (advanced) <http://www.google.com/>

TASK: Familiarize yourself with a research plan. Search and refine your topic

TOOL: Research Assistant <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/tutorials/research.html>

Plan your search (use form):

- Write down your questions and subject ideas for your topic
- List the main concepts
- List key words, phrases and the synonyms and variations (plurals, different spellings) you can use to search for this topic
- Remember to use alternative spellings and singular and plural forms.

TASK: **Locate books/reports/case studies.** Search by keyword, title, author, subject heading. Use subject headings to obtain more books on same topic

TOOL: UB Libraries' BISON Catalog <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>

EXAMPLES: keyword: louis kahn
Title: Louis Kahn
Author: Rykwert
Subject heading: Kahn, Louis I., 1901-1974

TASK: Locate journal articles

TOOL: Use online databases – access through UB Libraries' "Databases by subject" <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/subject.html> *Avery Index; Art Abstracts, Ingenta; EBSCOhost; Digital Dissertations, JSTOR; InfoTrac; etc.*

- Start with the keyword search: connect terms with AND, OR
- Narrow or broaden as needed
- Use subject search
- Mark articles / View / Print or email

- To access full-text, click on such icons as the SFX button (Eureka) or External Link Resolver (Ovid), etc.
- Articles not in full-text?
 - Electronic Journal Holdings – <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/ft.html>
 - BISON Catalog – for print journals in the Libraries (search by journal title):
<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/bison.html>
 - Note location, call number, dates (volume holdings)
- Visit the library location to read or copy the article or use Document Express
- Articles not at UB? Use Interlibrary Loan - ILLiad: <http://ulilliad.lib.buffalo.edu/illiad/>

TASK: Locate Web Resources

TOOL: Use Advanced Google (<http://www.google.com>)

Word of Caution! The World Wide Web offers a wealth of information, but not all sources are equally valuable or reliable.

- Always check to see if the web site has a discernable author
- Pay close attention to the URL and domain name of a Web site
- Be sure to check the date the last time the page was modified
- For more detailed resources that help you evaluate Web sites, go to
<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/ugl/tutorials/evaluatingwebsites.html>
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TASK: Locate Images

TOOLS: Use various search mechanisms

TASK: Evaluate and Cite Resources

TOOL: UB Libraries' online guides

EXAMPLES:

- Evaluating Resources <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/tutorials/evaluatingoverview.html>
- Citing My Sources http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/asl/tutorials/citingsources_stylemanuals.html
- Chicago (Ohio State) <http://library.osu.edu/sites/guides/chicagogd.html>

TASK:

ANY Questions ? ... Consult these sources!

Instant Librarian

<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/help/refchat.html>

Libraries' Staff Directory

<http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/staff/>

- Research Assistant: <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/units/ugl/tutorials/research.html>
- Ask UB Librarians <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/help/contact.html>
- Help A to Z: <http://libweb.lib.buffalo.edu/ft/helpa-z.asp>

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