Beyond JSTOR (for the Social Sciences and Education)

Maria A. Perez-Stable
Western Michigan University, maria.perez-stable@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/digital_research_skills

Part of the Library and Information Science Commons

WMU ScholarWorks Citation
http://scholarworks.wmich.edu/digital_research_skills/3
Session 2: Beyond JSTOR (for the social sciences & education)

- Introduction
  - Central Reference Department—Ask-a-Librarian services
    (http://wmich.libanswers.com/)

- How many of you have used or heard of JSTOR?

- So, just what is JSTOR?
  - A database provides full-text access to approximately 1,800 scholarly journals in a number of humanities and social sciences disciplines
  - Search by individual title or in the whole collection
  - This database mainly contains back issues, **but usually not issues in the most recent 3 to 5 years**, although there are current issues available for about 200 journals, mostly published by the university presses
  - JSTOR *does* contain seminal journals, but the different subject databases will cover way more literature; e.g., America: History and Life indexes over 1,000 journals in American history alone, and JSTOR only contains 72 American history journals

- Explain **PowerSearch**—“Googlization” of the library’s materials—default on home page
  - Subject specific databases have search features that help researchers focus on exactly what they need—NOT all of the journal databases are covered by PowerSearch
  - Search screen is not as sophisticated as most of the journal databases
  - However, can sometimes find obscure references

- Find the **best** journal databases in your field—**SUBJECT GUIDES**
  (http://www.wmich.edu/library/guides)
  - Also have databases arranged by broad disciplines on LEFT side
  - Databases have many of the same features and functions—limiting, exporting, emailing, printing, citing, etc.—but they may appear in different places on the screen, depending on the database.
Databases cover different time spans; one of the ones that goes back furthest is the **Web of Science**, that contains the **Social Sciences Citation Index**, with coverage back into the middle 1950s. LOTS of scholarship in this one.

Use the appropriate databases to conduct your literature reviews

- **$64,000 Question:** When is my literature review done?

**Manage your citations using RefWorks -- Sign up for FREE account!**

- Will allow you to make folders corresponding to different papers/research you are doing
- Can **EXPORT** the citations from the databases directly into RefWorks—then organize and the [Find it @ WMU](#) button goes with the citation, making it very easy to get back to your original articles
- RefWorks will help you format the bibliography in the appropriate citation system—APA, MLA, Chicago, Turabian, etc.
- Group Code from off campus: RWWMichU
- Maria’s RefWorks account

**The POWER of the Librarian!**

- Librarians often have a second, subject master’s degree
- Librarians are usually more up-to-date on research databases and tools than faculty
- You can make an appointment with your librarian and we can help with:
  - Literature reviews
  - Search strategies
  - Obtaining additional materials

Before you leave today, check out the business card of the librarian assigned to your department

Questions?

---

Maria Perez-Stable, Central Reference Department, Waldo Library  
387-5322; Email: maria.perez-stable@wmich.edu