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Beyond JSTOR (for the Social Sciences and Education)

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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?