

ARIA Library Workshop

Preparing for a Research Assistantship

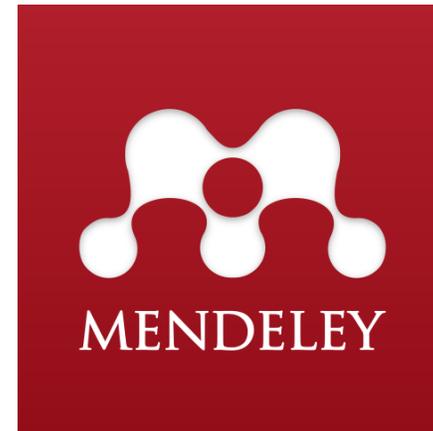
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What are you hoping to learn today?

Learning Objectives

- Identify the main features of Zotero
- Apply Boolean operators and efficient search strategies
- Use the McGill library catalogue
- Compare the uses of multidisciplinary databases and subject specific ones
- Recognize the importance of the scholarly literature continuum
- Practice different strategies to evaluate information
- Know about the library services available to you

Citation Management



Let's open Zotero!

zotero

WorldCat

- McGill's library catalogue
- Contains (theoretically) all of the library's information resources
 - Books, journals, articles, databases, multimedia, etc.
 - Print and electronic
- Great for:
 - Known item searching
 - Browsing for books and e-books (not for articles)

Activity

- Find a book and subject heading related to your research project
- Find the liaison librarian for your discipline

Creating a Search Strategy

- Think about your topic: What is the main question that you are trying to answer?
- What are the most important concepts of your topic?
 - These are your keywords.
- Think of a few synonyms
- Avoid words like: cause, effect, reason, impact.
- Join the keywords with Boolean operators
- If you have a lot of keywords = Use parentheses for clarity
 - Ex: (social media OR social network OR facebook) and privacy
- If you are searching for a phrase = Use quotation marks
 - Ex: “social media”

Boolean Searching

AND

- Combines two concepts, both will be represented in the results.
- Lowers the numbers of results
Ex: social media AND privacy

OR

- Joins two concepts or synonyms
- Increases the number of results
Ex: Social media OR social network

NOT

- Removes the results that include the word that follows it
- Lowers the numbers of results
Ex: Social media NOT Facebook

*

- Truncation symbol
- All the words with the same root will be represented in the results
- Use instead of plurals / can also replace a letter
- Increases the number of results
Ex: Wom*n = will show results with woman and women.

Multidisciplinary Databases

- Useful for topics that cover different disciplines
- Can be access from the database list or in the library catalogue
- Best options:
 - Academic Search Complete
 - Scopus
 - Web of Science

Subject Specific

- Useful for topics that relate to one specific discipline
- Access them through the subject guides

Activity

- For 15 minutes, explore and search one multidisciplinary database and one subject specific database.
- How do they compare to one another?
- Did you get similar results in both databases?
- Which one do you think is more useful to you and your project?

Scholarly Literature Continuum

- No work of scholarship exists in isolation
- Stand on the shoulders of giants!
- Use citation tracking databases such as Google Scholar to see who is citing a given piece of scholarship
- Set up database alerts to track citations and searches

Activity

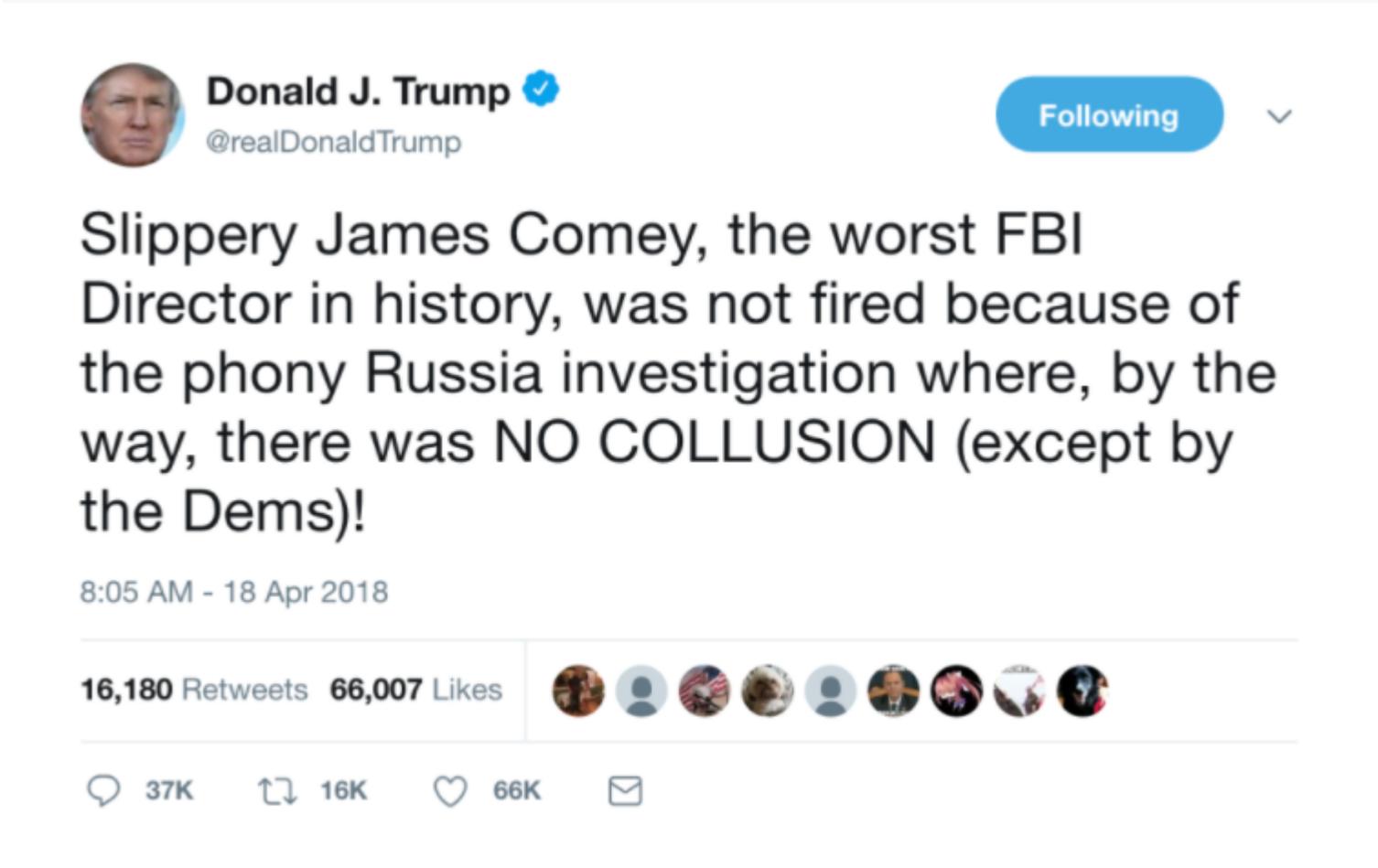
- Use a citation tracking database to see how many times a book or article has been cited, and by whom
- Set up a search or citation alert in a citation tracking database
- Citation tracking databases include:
 - Web of Science
 - Scopus
 - Google Scholar

Is it better if information is reliable or relevant?

Can it be both?

Should it be both?

Reliability vs. Relevance



A screenshot of a tweet from Donald J. Trump. The tweet text reads: "Slippery James Comey, the worst FBI Director in history, was not fired because of the phony Russia investigation where, by the way, there was NO COLLUSION (except by the Dems)!" The tweet is dated 8:05 AM - 18 Apr 2018. It has 16,180 retweets and 66,007 likes. The interface shows the user's profile picture, name, and handle, along with a "Following" button. At the bottom, there are icons for replies (37K), retweets (16K), likes (66K), and a direct message icon.

Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump Following

Slippery James Comey, the worst FBI Director in history, was not fired because of the phony Russia investigation where, by the way, there was NO COLLUSION (except by the Dems)!

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16,180 Retweets 66,007 Likes 

 37K  16K  66K 

Evaluation of Sources

Currency (relevance)

- When was the information created?

Authority (reliability)

- Who created the information? Who published the information: publisher, journal, website?

Accuracy (reliability)

- Is the information supported by evidence? Has it been reviewed? Is it unbiased? Is the methodology sound?

Relevance

- Does the information relate to your topic? Who is the target audience?

Purpose (relevance)

- What is the purpose of the information? Why is the information being published?

Correlation vs. Causality

“As ice cream sales increase, there is a correlation in the increased rate of shark attacks.”

Does ice cream cause shark attacks?

O'Donnell, M. (2018, April 3). Do ice cream sales increase shark attacks?

Retrieved May 25, 2018, from

<https://www.spectator.com.au/2018/04/do-ice-cream-sales-increase-shark-attacks/>



Backpackers, H. (2009). *Great white shark off South Africa*. Retrieved from

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Great white shark_south_africa.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Great_white_shark_south_africa.jpg)

Library Services

- Scan requests
- Holds
- Interlibrary loans (ILL)
- Subjects specialists
- Format-specific databases
- Rare books/archives

Feedback Form

<https://goo.gl/forms/N8NpWAwqQiBQitAC2>