CMST 101 Public Speaking

This guide is a starting point for using Mervyn H. Sterne Library resources to conduct research for speeches in CMST 101 Public Speaking, a course offered by the UAB Department of Communication Studies. Questions? Contact the Sterne Library Reference Department through Ask Us on the library website.

Mervyn H. Sterne Library Homepage

www.mhsl.uab.edu

Tips for Researching a Speech

1. Review what you know about your topic. Think of events, people, places, and organizations related to your topic. Think about the following:
   - Why is it interesting to you?
   - Why is it important to share this information with an audience?

2. Make a list of keywords (significant words, usually nouns) connected to what you know about your topic. Use these keywords (plus others that you identify during your research) as search terms in the local catalog and databases. The Research Worksheet has additional tips for creating a keyword search in databases.

3. Consider the different types of information you can use to enhance your speech:
   - Definitions
   - Descriptions
   - Historical information
   - Examples
   - Illustrations (verbal and visual)
   - Statistics
   - Commentary and opinion (same and different from yours)

Which type(s) of information is best suited to your topic and audience?

Background Information / Overviews

Books

Subject encyclopedias are good places to start for an introduction or overview of a topic. You can also use these to focus your topic. To identify subject encyclopedias, choose Local Catalog from the Sterne Library homepage and conduct an Advanced Search combining a broad subject term (e.g., sports) and the word encyclopedias.
Databases

-CQ Researcher
-Encyclopaedia Britannica Online: Academic Edition
-Gale Virtual Reference Library
-Oxford Reference Online Premium

View the Reference Works section of the Sterne Library databases page to see additional databases for background information.

Opinions, Pro/Con

Books

Opposing Viewpoints and Information Plus - type opposing viewpoints or information plus as a Title search in the Local Catalog to review a list of available volumes.

At Issue - volumes located at different call numbers on 3rd floor; type at issue as a Title search in the Local Catalog to review a list of available volumes.

Contemporary World Issues - volumes are located at different call numbers throughout Sterne with some available electronically; type contemporary world issues as a Title search in the Local Catalog to review a list of available volumes.

Databases

Opposing Viewpoints in Context

The Contemporary Controversial Issues research guide lists additional resources for locating information on current, arguable topics.

Statistics

Government (especially federal) Web sites are good sources for statistical information. Try the following as starting points:

American FactFinder
Census.gov

Magazine, Newspaper, and Journal Articles

Use Sterne Library databases to identify magazine, newspaper, and journal articles relevant to your speech topic. The following databases are starting points. Others are listed alphabetically and by subject area on the Sterne Library databases page.

Academic Search Premier
Academic OneFile
Lexis Nexis News
Newspaper Source
Readers’ Guide Full Text
Health Source - Consumer Edition

How to Locate Full Text of Journal Articles

ONLINE: Use the Find It link within a database or the Electronic Journals List on the Sterne Library homepage to determine if the full text is available in a database through UAB Libraries.

PRINT: Conduct a Journal Title search in the Sterne Library local catalog to identify the call number and location (usually second floor) of the journal.

INTERLIBRARY LOAN: Complete an interlibrary loan request for articles that are not available in databases, through the Electronic Journals List, or in print at Sterne Library. Choose “Services” then “Interlibrary Loan” from the Sterne Library homepage.
Sterne Library Research Guides are available on a variety of topics. Some you may find especially helpful are:

- Alabama Newspapers in Scotty Databases
- Citing Your Sources
- Evaluating Internet Sources
- Locating Images
- Scholarly Journals: What Are They?
- UAB and Birmingham Research

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