This guide is a starting point for locating research articles in CMST 494 Communication Research Methods, a course offered by the UAB Department of Communication Studies. Before using this guide, students taking CMST 494 should read any assignment requirements provided by their instructor.

All of the databases and Web sites are hot-linked directly from this PDF. Just click on the link to connect to the resource.

**CHOOSE A TOPIC**

The following resources can help you identify communication studies topics for this assignment.

*International Encyclopedia of Communication*
Electronic Book
  Provides authoritative, interdisciplinary coverage of the theories, media and communication phenomena, research methods, problems, concepts, and geographical areas related to all areas of communication studies.

*Encyclopedia of Communication and Information*
Ref P 87.5 E53 2001
  Provides interdisciplinary coverage of all aspects of communication and information. Includes 280 entries related to eight topic areas: careers, information science, information technologies, literacy, institutional studies, interpersonal communication, library science, and media effects.

Class discussions and textbooks for communication studies courses are also resources for topic ideas.

Use the [Research Worksheet](#) to develop a research question from your topic and compile a list of search terms to use in Sterne Library databases.

**IDENTIFY A JOURNAL ARTICLE**

Next, use Sterne Library [databases](#) to search for a scholarly journal article on your topic. Focus on locating articles in communication studies journals. For a description of scholarly journals, see the research guide [Scholarly Journals: What Are They?](#)
The following are a few of the scholarly communication studies journals available through Sterne Library (in print or online). Searching the databases will help you identify other communication studies journals.

*Communication Quarterly*  
*Communication Research*  
*Communication Studies*  
*Public Opinion Quarterly*  
*Journal of Communication*  
*Quarterly Journal of Speech*

Search the following databases to identify journal articles on your topic.

**Best starting point:** [Communication and Mass Media Complete](#)

Here’s one example of an **Advanced Search** in the [Communication and Mass Media Complete](#) database:

[Image of Ebscohost search screen]

If you don’t limit your search to a specific communication studies journal, make sure to check the box to limit your results to **Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals**.

**Other databases:**  
[Communications and Mass Media Collection](#)  
[Humanities Full Text](#)  
[PsycINFO](#)  
[Social Sciences Full Text](#)

The [Communication Studies](#) research guide describes additional resources for identifying articles in communication studies.

**LOCATE ARTICLES YOU IDENTIFY (ONLINE OR PRINT)**

After you identify articles by searching a database, locate a copy of the article. Some databases include the full text of articles. Look for links labeled PDF or Full Text or HTML Full Text.

If a database does not include the full text of an article you need, use the following steps to locate a copy of the article.
Online: Use the *Find It* link within the database you are searching or the Electronic Journals List on the Sterne Library homepage to determine if full text is available in a different database on the library’s website.

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 or in print at Sterne Library or Lister Hill Library.

**COMPLETE A CITATION FOR THE ARTICLE**

After you have identified, located, and read your article, complete a citation for it using the APA citation style (American Psychological Association).

See the Citing Your Sources research guide for additional examples of citing scholarly journal articles in APA or other formats.

**COMPLETE AN ANNOTATION FOR THE ARTICLE**

Follow your instructor’s directions to complete an annotation for the article you have read.

**QUESTIONS?**

Contact Heather Martin, Reference Librarian for Arts and Humanities, at hmartin@uab.edu or 934-6364.

Other resources for help: Ask a Librarian
Schedule an appointment with a librarian for a research or citation consultation

Prepared by: Heather Martin, MLIS, MA (hmartin@uab.edu)
Associate Librarian and Reference Librarian for Arts and Humanities
Mervyn H. Sterne Library
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Created: 17 September 2009
Last updated: 22 January 2014

Copyright 2014 © University of Alabama at Birmingham
Mervyn H. Sterne Library