

RESEARCH SKILLS

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Information research and gathering for your paper

When your task is to write a paper, finding more information on your research topic is essential. You will need different kinds of information at the various stages of your research process. According to Rumsey (2004: 2), the process of "finding, accessing and handling information" can be "more circular than linear for large projects". To a certain extent this is true of all research. Research into a topic will usually uncover unthought-of aspects of the original question or raise new questions, which will lead to the need for additional, different or new information and a new round of information research and gathering.

Rumsey (2004: 2) names the following stages of the "information-gathering process":

- Analysing the question or problem
- Defining the scope of the research and what information is required
- Identifying sources of that information (resource discovery)
- Finding where the information is stored (resource location)
- Gaining access to the information
- Ensuring that the information retrieved is a) what is required b) reliable (and possibly c) current)
- Managing searches and results
- Keeping up to date and monitoring new developments

(1) Defining your research topic and deciding on what information is needed

Ask yourself: *What is or how do I define my topic question? What aim and scope does my research project have? What type(s) of research does my project involve? What background information do I need to formulate my research question? What are the questions my research should answer? What is my "main" research question? Which information resources are relevant to what I wish to achieve? What kind of information do I need when?*



Try to formulate answers to these questions for your own research:

Research question:

Aim and scope of research

Type of research:

What questions should my research answer?

What are my own ideas at this stage?

What information do I need next?

(2) Developing information research strategies

Q: What information resources will allow me to find the information I need?

**A1: To find out basic or general information about a subject
→ consult**

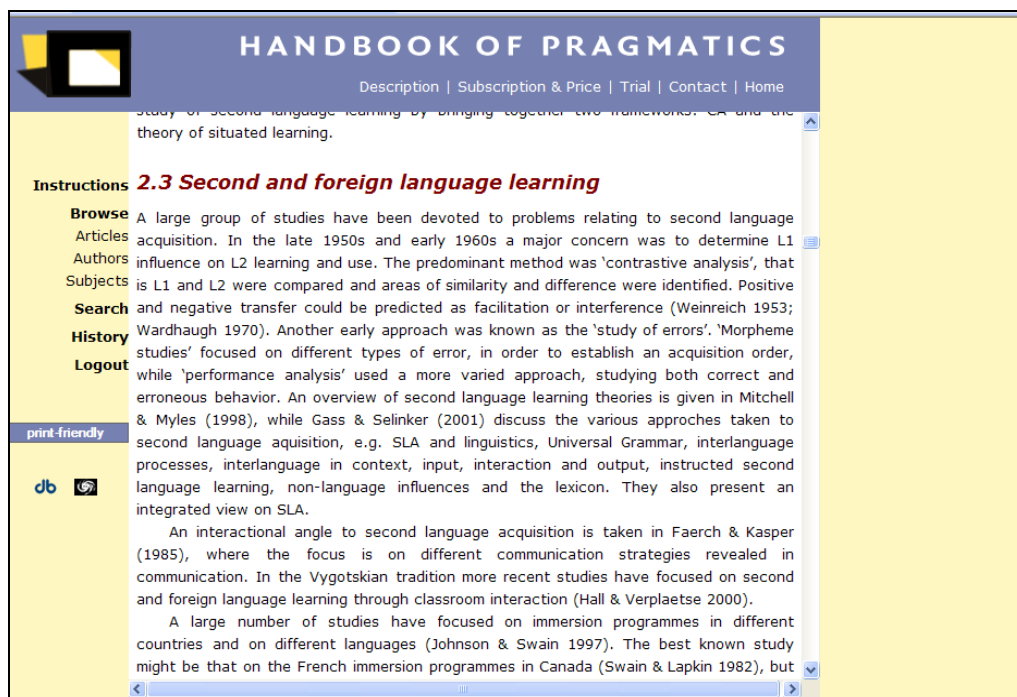
- subject dictionaries or encyclopaedias (online or in the Library)
- subject handbooks, introductions or other surveys (online or in the Library)

Linguistics: e.g.

Crystal, David : A dictionary of linguistics & phonetics / David Crystal . - 5. ed. . - Malden, Mass. [u.a.] : Blackwell , 2003 . - XXIV, 508 S. . - 0-631-22663-X. - (The language library)

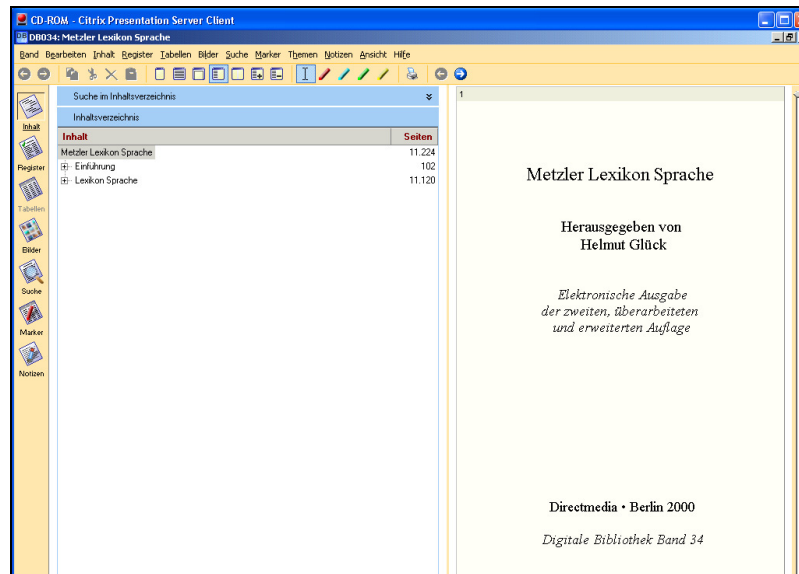
Holmes, Janet [Hrsg.] : The handbook of language and gender / ed. by Janet Holmes - 1. publ. as paperback . - Malden, Mass. [u.a.] : Blackwell , 2005 . - XV, 759 S. . - 0-631-22503-X. - (Blackwell handbooks in linguistics ; 13)

Ritchie, William C. [Hrsg.] : Handbook of second language acquisition . - San Diego, Calif. [u.a.] : Academic Press , 2003



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'Handbook of Pragmatics' website. The page title is 'HANDBOOK OF PRAGMATICS'. Below the title, there are navigation links: 'Description | Subscription & Price | Trial | Contact | Home'. The main content area is titled '2.3 Second and foreign language learning'. The text discusses second language acquisition, mentioning 'contrastive analysis', 'study of errors', and 'performance analysis'. It also mentions 'Faerch & Kasper (1985)', 'Hall & Verplaetse (2000)', and 'Johnson & Swain (1997)'. The page is displayed in a yellow-themed layout with a sidebar on the left containing navigation options like 'Instructions', 'Browse', 'Articles', 'Authors', 'Subjects', 'Search', 'History', and 'Logout'. There are also 'print-friendly' and 'db' icons in the sidebar.

Gunnarsson, Britt-Louise. "Applied Linguistics." *Handbook of Pragmatics*. Ed. Jef Verschueren and Jan-Ola Östman. Online. <http://www.benjamins.com/online/hop/> Datenbankservice der Univesitätsbibliothek Wien <http://data.univie.ac.at/dbs/> (8.11.2007)



Glück, Helmut. Ed. 2000. *Metzler Lexikon Sprache*. Elektronische Ausgabe der zweiten, überarbeiteten und erweiterten Auflage. Directmedia: Berlin. (Digitale Bibliothek, 34)

Literature: e.g.

Alexander, Christine [Hrsg.] : *The Oxford companion to the Brontës* / Christine Alexander and Margaret Smith . - 1. publ. in paperback with corr. . - Oxford [u.a.] : Oxford Univ. Press , 2006 . - LIII, 586 S. . - 978-0-19-861432-6

Baldick, Chris : *The concise Oxford dictionary of literary terms* : [defines over 1,000 literary terms from Absurd to Zeugma] / Chris Baldick . - 2. ed., reissued with new covers . - New York, NY [u.a.] : Oxford Univ. Press , 2004 . - X, 280 S. . - 0-19-860883-7 pbk. - (Oxford paperback reference)

Benstock, Shari : *A handbook of literary feminisms* / Shari Benstock ; Suzanne Ferriss ; Susanne Woods . - New York, NY [u.a.] : Oxford Univ. Press , 2002 . - XII, 292 S. . - ISBN: 0-19-510206-1

Guerin, Wilfred L. *A handbook of critical approaches to literature* / Wilfred L. Guerin - 5. ed. . - New York, NY [u.a.] : Oxford Univ. Press , 2005 . - XVI, 424 S. . - ISBN: 0-19-516017-7. - ISBN: 978-0-19-516017-8

Jackson, Russell [Hrsg.] : *The Cambridge companion to Shakespeare on film* / ed. by Russell Jackson . - 2. ed. . - Cambridge [u.a.] : Cambridge Univ. Press , 2007 . - XII, 349 S. . - 978-0-521-68501-6 kart.. - (Cambridge companions to literature : Authors)



Datenbankservice der Univesitätsbibliothek Wien <http://data.univie.ac.at/dbs> → OXFORD REFERENCE ONLINE

Cultural Studies, film studies etc: e.g.

Barker, Chris : The SAGE dictionary of cultural studies / Chris Barker . - 1. publ. . - London [u.a.] : SAGE , 2004 . - XXI, 211 S.

Bennett, Peter : Film studies : the essential resource / Peter Bennett, Andrew Hickman and Peter Wall . - 1. publ. . - London [u.a.] : Routledge , 2007 . - XVII, 428 S. . - 978-0-415-36567-3 (hbk.) : £65.00. - (The essentials series)

Lacey, Nick : Introduction to film / Nick Lacey . - 1. publ., 2. [print.] . - Basingstoke [u.a.] : Palgrave Macmillan , 2006 . - XVI, 336 S. . - 978-1-4039-1626-6

Nünning, Ansgar [Hrsg.] : Einführung in die Kulturwissenschaften : theoretische Grundlagen - Ansätze - Perspektiven / hrsg. von Ansgar Nünning und Vera Nünning . - Stuttgart [u.a.] : Metzler , 2008 . - XV, 392 S. . - 978-3-476-02237-0 Pb. : ca. sfr 31.00 (freier Pr.), ca. EUR 19.95, ca. EUR 20.60 (AT). - (BA-Studium)

- Find books via shelfmarks on the library shelves
- Search the online catalogue
- Consult your professor
- Do bibliographic research
- Find information resources in "Datenbankservice" (e.g.. Handbook of Pragmatics Online, Oxford Reference Online)

A2: To find information about specific aspects of a topic

→ consult

- specialised secondary literature

A3: To find out about specialised literature or to answer the question what has been written about the topic

→ consult

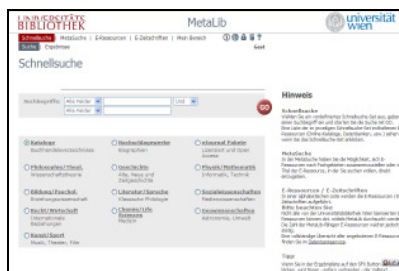
- list of references in books or articles on the topic
- subject bibliographies

→ Search for bibliographic citations in bibliographic databases:

in more than one bibliographic database:

- **via METALIB**

" MetaLib allows you to search several electronic resources (catalogues, databases, e-journals) simultaneously, to set up search sets and to manage your search results. "



- **via a database provider such as CSA or EBSCO** (if more than one database are available from one provider)

über Datenbankservice: (Auswahl)

- **ABELL (Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature; auch via LION=Literature Online)**

"ABELL wird herausgegeben von der MHRA (Modern Humanities Research Association) und beinhaltet bibliographische Zitate von Monographien, Zeitschriftenartikeln, kommentierten Ausgaben von literarischen Werken, Buchbesprechungen, Aufsatzsammlungen und Dissertationen aus der ganzen Welt. Die Abdeckung gerade des Zeitraums zwischen 1920 und 1955 ist bis dato unerreicht.
Die Datenbank umfaßt:
Englische Sprache (Syntax, Phonologie, Lexikologie, Semantik, Stilistik und Dialektologie)
Englische Literatur (Poesie, Prosa, Fiktion, Biographie, Reiseberichte, Literaturtheorie und Studien über einzelne Autoren)
Bibliographie (Untersuchungen von Manuskripten, Texten und die Geschichte der Publikationen)
Kultur der englischsprachigen Welt (Brauchtum, Religion, Lieder, Film, Tanz, etc.)
Berichtszeitraum: 1920-"
- **ERIC**

The ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) database consists of two files: the Resources in Education (RIE) file of document citations and the Current Index to Journals in Education (CIJE) file of journal article citations from over 750 professional journals. In addition, ERIC now contains over 850 ERIC Digest records that feature the full text of the original document.
- **Humanities International Complete**

" Humanities International Complete enthält den Volltext aus Hunderten von Zeitschriften, Büchern und anderen internationalen Publikationen. Diese von Whitston Publishing (zu EBSCO Publishing gehörig) erstellte Datenbank enthält alle Daten aus dem Humanities International Index (mehr als 2000 Titel und 2 Mio. Datensätze) sowie Volltexte aus ca. 770 Zeitschriften zum Themenschwerpunkt Geisteswissenschaften."
- **IIPA - International Index to Performing Arts**

Der International Index Of Performing Arts Full Text, ist die erste Online-Datenbank, die über 300.000 Artikel und Zeitschriften mit ausgewählten vollständigen Texten, ab 1864 bis heute, in den Bereichen Film, Theater, Tanz und Musik zur Verfügung stellt. Über die Datenbank können Zitate, Abhandlungen, Abstracts und ausgewählte vollständige Texte bestimmter Journale/Zeitschriften im Bereich der performativen Künste gesucht und über das Web bezogen werden.
- **LLBA (Linguistics and Language Behavior Abstracts)**

"non-evaluative abstracts of articles from approximately 2,000 serials published worldwide, coverage of recent books, enhanced dissertation listings from Dissertation Abstracts International, and bibliographic citations for book reviews that appear in journals abstracted for Sociological Abstracts LLC"
- **MLA (Modern Language Association (MLA) International Bibliography)**

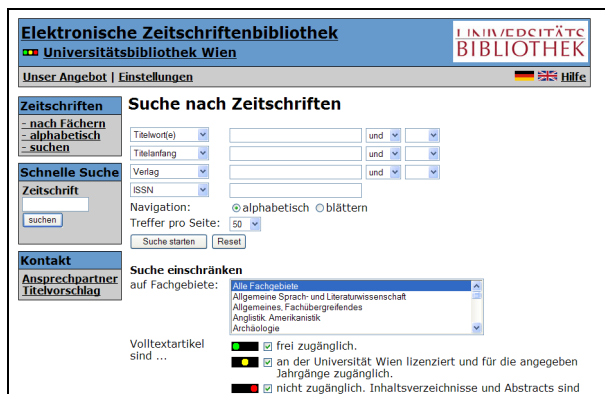
"access to more than 1.5 million bibliographic citations to journal articles, books, and dissertations from 1963 to the present in academic disciplines such as: language, literature, folklore, linguistics, literary theory and criticism, and the dramatic arts"; from 1926.
- **Online Contents Linguistik**

Frei zugängliche Datenbank mit den Inhaltsverzeichnissen von über 270 Linguistik-Zeitschriften, die den bisherigen gedruckten Zeitschrifteninhaltsdienst Current

Contents Linguistik (CCL) ablöst. Zur Zeit sind die Titelangaben von ca. 60.000 Aufsätzen ab 1998 recherchierbar (Stand Dezember 2007).

via EZB (Elektronische Zeitschriftenbibliothek = Electronic Journals Library):

- Year's Work in Critical and Cultural Theory, The (YWCCT)** (also via **LION** = Literature Online)
 The Year's Work in Critical & Cultural Theory is a companion volume to YWES. It provides a narrative bibliography of work in the field of critical and cultural theory, recording significant debates and issues of interest in a broad field of research in the humanities and social sciences. As the field of critical and cultural studies expands, so the range and scope of the volume grow, and volumes now include chapters on Queer theories and cultures and Film Studies. Future volumes will continue this development, particularly in the field of cultural theory and new areas developing in the USA and Australia.
- Year's Work in English Studies, The (YWES)**
 The Year's Work in English Studies is the qualitative narrative bibliographical review of scholarly work on English language and literatures written in English. Each volume includes a detailed overview from Old English to contemporary critical works for a given year, and contains critical notices for some 1100 books; extensive coverage of English Language, American Literature, New Literatures in English and English Literature; coverage of specialist periodicals; comprehensive indexing by critic, author, and subject; plus bibliographical endnotes for each chapter. YWES is an essential resource for scholars in any field of language or literary studies.



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<http://www.univie.ac.at/ZID/vpn/> :

- Web mask
- U-Net account & password
- Choose "Universitätsbibliothek" to access the University Library services

