The Research Process, continued

October 24, 2011
Last Time

• Assessing Your Needs
• Preliminary Research Strategies
• Developing Your Research Topic/Questions

(also: create a preliminary research paper outline as soon as you settle on a research question!)
Searching for information

• Where?
  – Internet
  – Library catalogs and databases
  – Anywhere else?

• Creating a strategy is important
  – Natural language vs. keyword searching; what happens when you search using a question or a sentence?
    *Try this!*
  – Pull out keywords, use subject headings
  – *PRO TIP:* write down your keywords/search terms
Gathering relevant information

• Not everything you find will be relevant
• Don’t need to read thoroughly right now
  – Skim, read abstracts or summaries, check the table of contents and index, etc.
• Keep track of what you find
  – Email articles to yourself (DON’T copy + paste!); capture the citation if available
  – Consider keeping a research log
Read what you’ve found

• Take notes
  – DON’T copy + paste!
  – Try using freewriting to summarize rather than paraphrasing
• It’s OK to read a source more than once
• Begin to fit sources into your outline
Finish outline, draft, write

• Introduction
• Summarize/synthesize your sources
  – What do your sources say about your research question?
  – Sometimes this is called a literature review
• Your analysis
  – Figure out how to use data in your sources to answer your research question
• Conclusion
For Wednesday, October 26

Discussion: Advanced internet searching

Reading: Badke Ch. 6 (all) and Ch. 7 pp. 122-124

Viewing: Common Craft web search strategies video

Your research topic proposal is due at the beginning of class