

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