Information Overload: Where to Start

Depending on your assignment or information needs, there are three main places to search for information.

I. The Library Catalog – Use the Library Catalog to search for books, DVDs, and eBooks.
   - Books are excellent sources for finding in-depth information on a topic.
   - Use the online catalog to find subject-specific dictionaries and encyclopedias. These are an excellent starting point for looking up words, phrases, and concepts in particular subjects. For example, an Encyclopedia of Psychology, A Handbook to Literature, or Encyclopedia of Law Enforcement.

II. Article Research Databases – Use these to find articles that have been published in popular magazines & scholarly (academic) journals. The articles found in these databases contain information that is more current, but less in-depth, than information found in books.
   - NCWC students can access the databases from any computer with Internet 24/7
   - Researchers and college students use articles to discover recent work that other scientists have published in scholarly journals.
   - Article research databases allow you to print, email, or save articles for later use.

III. Internet – Information on the Internet can be updated every year, every day, every hour. You can find the most current information here, but it is common that there is very little depth.
   - The Web is most useful in finding information about entertainment, popular people, and recent occurrences in the news. Scientific information is out there, but you must be able to judge what you find and have the ability to prove that the information you found is reliable.
   - This is where college students can get into trouble. Students who jump on Google or other search engines to find information for assignments are often criticized by professors for finding information that is of poor quality. As a researcher, you must learn how to judge website information to find only reliable sources.

For research assistance, contact Pearsall Library’s Reference Desk @ 252-985-5350 or email us at reference@ncwc.edu. 24 hour research assistance can also be found via chat at the library website http://www.ncwc.edu/library.
Use the NCknows chat box for live librarian help, 24/7.
Interlibrary Loan

What is Interlibrary Loan?

Interlibrary loan is a useful service to use when you need books or articles that Pearsall Library does not own.

Interlibrary Loan is a free service that gives you access to thousands of other library collections across the United States that contain books, journal articles, videos, and other kinds of materials. Through ILL, NCWC students can order any book or journal article from anywhere in the country.

How do I do it?

2. Click on the link for “Interlibrary Loan”.
3. Click on the link for the type of material you would like to request.
4. Fill out the form and put as much information about the request in the boxes as you can.

How long does it take?

Approximately 4 to 8 business days.

- When you fill out the electronic form at the library website, our staff locates and orders your book or article.
- The book or article is sent to us via regular mail or email and we contact you when it arrives!

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