

Library search strategies:

1. Make notes of where you are searching as you go along. It's easy to get lost.

2. Know the basic "paths" to sources:

a. Pegasus: UCSB library holdings.

b. Melvyl: all UC holdings. You can ask for interlibrary loan.

c. Articles databases:

Academic Search Complete is a big one. See "articles" tab on UCSB Library homepage. One advantage is that you can separate out academic journal articles from popular ones.

Other databases that are associated with particular disciplines, such as Science Digest. This can be helpful in narrowing your search.

Search electronic journals only. This index is available under "Research Sources" on the bottom of the UCSB Library website.

d. Google Scholar:

+Tracks number of citations of works by various authors.

+Offers excerpts from some books as well as articles.

+Points to other articles related to a topic.

-Sometimes doesn't have most up-to-date articles.

e. Wikipedia:

You can't cite it as a source in an academic paper, but you can look up sources listed in its References

3. Ask library experts: The library has excellent customer service. Contact from library home page for:

a. email,

b. 24/7 chat,

c. one-on-one appointments with librarians with expertise in various disciplines:

<http://guides.library.ucsb.edu/>

4. Make note of keywords in the listing to help you narrow your search.

5. Use biographies at the end of articles and books.

These can lead you to other good sources.

6. Guerrilla search tactics:

Amazon: Check out books descriptions, reviews, and "if you bought this book, you might like these...."

7. Youtube tutorials