Lesson Plan:

Understanding the Scholarly Conversation

# Learning Objectives:

* conduct research using the library website
  + identify main research topics/questions
  + dominant academic figures
  + key specialized journals
  + and key sources, methods of research
* Understand what scholarly conversation means
* Understand the importance of peer-review in scholarly conversation

# **Suggested Homework:**

* Credo InfoLit [module on Scholarly Conversation](https://montana.credocourseware.com/courses/course-v1:Montana-State-University-Bozeman+IL-MOD+2018/courseware/d0255c5f88e7436a9122f714ee769052/3743aa6dabf942a28a9028cb2f39992b/1?activate_block_id=block-v1%3AMontana-State-University-Bozeman%2BIL-MOD%2B2018%2Btype%40vertical%2Bblock%409bbf34d664114e228130fe58271469b4)

# INTRO (5 MINS):

* Overview of class outline
* Show the [Online Course Guide](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/?b=t), or the [MSU Library Research Guide](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/libraryresearch) with reminders about the following information.

# DISCUSSION (10 mins)

Ask the following intro questions (offer students the option to share verbally or in writing):

* Scholarly Conversation - What does that mean?
  + It incorporates the trends & current research questions of the field and sub-fields, dominant academic figures, key journals, main sources/methods of new research.
* Why would peer-review be important for this assignment?
* What would you look for, to help you understand the Scholarly Conversation of a research topic?
  + What are the **main research topics/questions** in the research area (last 20 years)?
  + Who are the **dominant academic figures** in the field and why, what are they contributing?
  + What are the **key specialized journals** in the field and what types of research do they publish?
  + What are the **key sources, methods** **of research** for the field and at what scale is research usually undertaken (microscale, meso/regional scale, macroscale)
* NOTES:
  + Look for the most representative 25 research articles on their subfield in the last 25 years; What are the articles about? What is the conversation that is happening around those ideas?
  + Where is the field going in the next 25 years? What new directions is the research going in? What gaps currently exist?

# INSTRUCTION: Demonstrate with an example (15 mins)

* Getting Started/Exploration: Show methods through Library Example: **Cryosphere**
  + Subject: **geography (LOCK)**
  + Subjects for **main research topics/questions**
    - Remote sensing, glaciers ->
      * mapping changes of glaciers with remote sensing
      * impacts of Climate change on cytosphere
  + Authors for **dominant academic figures**
    - Fettweis, X. – changes to Greenland’s ice sheet
    - Zwinger, t. – mathematic modeling; full Stokes Model
    - Editors of journals, co-authors
    - Find review essay on topic, look at references/authors
  + Facet: Journal title for **key specialized journals**
    - Cryosphere
    - Remote Sensing
* Digging in deeper – subject specific searching & Library Resources
  + **Subject databases** for key specialized journals & databases
    - physical geography - Earth Sciences , ecology; environmental science
    - Human - history, anthropology; economics; multidisciplinary; native american studies;
    - Aag.org - past conference proceedings, search abstracts
    - Database filters by journals/publications; authors; subjects
  + **Key sources, methods** of research
    - how is research being done in this area? Taking measurements with instruments? Conducting focus groups or interviews with people?
    - READ!!!
  + Research takes time – find something you are interested in and want to know, and it will make research a whole lot better, more fun
* **Google Scholar** to investigate **Authors & who is citing them**
  + Connecting to Library resources
  + Finding specific source/author to determine credibility
  + Evaluating sources – scholar is better than google, but still need to think critically:
    - Number of citations, look at other publications by the author, reputable journals,
    - Why do you need to be more weary of general web sources vs. google scholar vs. library website vs. peer reviewed

# **AVTIVITY: Scholarly Communication Hands on Research (15 mins)**

**WRAP UP (5 mins)**

* Quick assessment of instruction
* Show resources on Online Guides again, and where to get help from the library: **Ask.lib.montana.edu**

Activity: Scholarly Communication

Hands-on Research

# Individual Hands-on Research (10-20 mins)

## INSTRUCTIONS: Search your topic and use filters to answer the following questions:

* What are the **main research topics/questions** in the research area (last 20 years)?
* Who are the **dominant authors or academic figures** in the field and why, what are they contributing?
* What are the **key specialized journals** in the field and what types of research do they publish?
* What are the **key sources, methods** **of research** for the field and at what scale is research usually undertaken (microscale, meso/regional scale, macroscale)