Online Activity: Getting to Know the MSU Library Databases

Hands-on/active learning: In this activity students will identify and use various library resources.

# Instructions

* Students complete the worksheet individually

# Library Resources

## Finding Books & Resources in CatSearch

**Books are often less up-to-date than journal articles, but can be more detailed and provide a wider ranging view of a subject. You often don’t need to read a whole book to use it as a source. You can just use chapters that pertain to your subject, but you should at least skim the introduction (if there is one) and the chapter titles to get a sense of whether or not the book is a good fit for your project.**

1. From the library homepage, use the CatSearch box to search for the book “*The Upswing”* by Robert Putnam and Shaylyn Romney Garrett.
   1. Where is this book located and what is its call number?
   2. Use the [citation feature](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/citation) to copy and paste (or write) in the MLA 8th Edition citation.

## Finding Journal Articles in Library Databases

**Journal articles are used when doing academic research. Journals are collections of academic writing within a discipline (i.e. sociology, chemical engineering, statistics, etc.). They are published in issues, often monthly. Individual articles can be found through CatSearch and the catalog entry will indicate whether or not the article has been subjected to the peer review process.**

1. From the library homepage, use the **CatSearch** box to search for a general topic of interest, and limit to peer-reviewed articles
   1. What topic did you search?
   2. How many peer-reviewed articles did you find (i.e. the number of search results after limiting to peer-reviewed)?
2. On the library homepage, find the “**Journals by Title**” search and find one journal that relates to either your topic or your major.
   1. What is the title?
   2. Where is this journal available? (There may be many sources, name one.)
   3. If this is an online journal, are there restrictions to availability?

**If you find a good journal article for your research, chances are that the author has cited some useful sources within the article—check the bibliography. Other authors may have cited the article you found in their own articles on the subject you’re researching.**

1. Navigate to Library Website > **Articles and Databases** > Web of Science. Search for the article titled “Biomedical Applications of Metal Organic Frameworks” by Keskin and Kizilel.
   1. How many other works have cited this one?
   2. Check for MSU Availability—is it available?