St. Lawrence University Libraries’ Homepage

- RESEARCH is front and center
- Two ways to search library holdings (Encore and ODYSseus)
- COURSE approach to readings and resources
Enter a keyword search in Encore to find books, videos and digital collections at SLU.

Use the LOCATION delimiter on the left to find REFERENCE BOOKS.
Finding Journal Articles

- All of the disciplines taught at St. Lawrence are displayed on the library homepage.
- Click on HISTORY to find recommended indexes.

Major Indexes & Article Databases

- There's no one, single “right” index. Use a combination of indexes to do comprehensive research.
- Historical Abstracts covers your topic and supports “Federated Searching”.

America: History & Life
History of the U.S. and Canada
varies

EconLit
Economics literature, has full text for 480+ journals including the AEA journals
1969-present

Historical Abstracts
World history since 1450, not U.S. or Canada
varies
• Before you enter search terms, click on **Choose Databases** to search multiple indexes at the same time.

• Check off all of the indexes that pertain to your research topic and search them simultaneously (this is called Federated Searching).
• Enter appropriate keywords.

• You can restrict your results to only Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.

• Use the time line on the left to filter results by date of publication.

• Similar to Encore’s tags, you can use Subject Headings on the left to refine your topic.
- The FULL TEXT of many articles is available online.

- HTML Full Text – words only, prints quickly.

- PDF Full Text – words, graphics, and charts are included; might take awhile to download and print.

- Linked Full Text – takes you to a PDF in another database.

- For non-full text articles, click on Find@SLU.

- Articles not available at SLU can be requested via ILLiad (Interlibrary Loan)
JSTOR includes sources as far back as the 1600’s.

Be sure to use keywords appropriate to the time period you’re searching.
"An image library for the Arts and Sciences"
Project Muse returns results with a more socio-cultural perspective.
Finding Primary Sources

Primary Source – a definition

- Was created during the time period being studied
- Creator has first hand knowledge of the events being described
- Can be a document, photograph, painting, picture, recording...

Secondary Source – a definition

- Comments on, builds upon or cites a primary source
- Hindsight
To find primary documents, combine your topic with keywords such as:

- sources
- diaries
- personal narratives
- memoirs
- correspondence
- speeches
- treaties
- sermons
- songs
- cartoons
- papers
- photography
- letters
Finding Primary Sources - Google Books


- Use the Advanced Search in Google Books to find full view books and magazines
Finding and Evaluating Websites

- Use the **Google Advanced Search** to find websites with domains of .org, .edu, .gov...

**Ipl2 – Information you can Trust**

**Ipl2.org**

- Ipl2.org provides access to “authoritative, high-quality, trustworthy” websites
# Web Pages Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Evaluation of Web documents</th>
<th>How to interpret the basics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. Accuracy of Web Documents</strong></td>
<td><strong>Accuracy</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Who wrote the page and can you contact him or her?</td>
<td>- Make sure author provides e-mail or a contact address/phone number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What is the purpose of the document and why was it produced?</td>
<td>- Know the distinction between author and Webmaster.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Is this person qualified to write this document?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. Authority of Web Documents</strong></td>
<td><strong>Authority</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Who published the document and is it separate from the &quot;Webmaster?&quot;</td>
<td>- What credentials are listed for the authors?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Check the domain of the document, what institution publishes this document?</td>
<td>- Where is the document published? Check URL domain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Does the publisher list his or her qualifications?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. Objectivity of Web Documents</strong></td>
<td><strong>Objectivity</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What goals/objectives does this page meet?</td>
<td>- Determine if page is a mask for advertising; if so information might be biased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How detailed is the information?</td>
<td>- View any Web page as you would an infommercial on television. Ask yourself why was this written and for whom?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- What opinions (if any) are expressed by the author?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. Currency of Web Documents</strong></td>
<td><strong>Currency</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- When was it produced?</td>
<td>- How many dead links are on the page?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- When was it updated?</td>
<td>- Are the links current or updated regularly?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- How up-to-date are the links (if any)?</td>
<td>- Is the information on the page outdated?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. Coverage of the Web Documents

- Are the links (if any) evaluated and do they complement the documents' theme?
- Is it all images or a balance of text and images?
- Is the information presented cited correctly?

Coverage

- If page requires special software to view the information, how much are you missing if you don't have the software?
- Is it free or is there a fee, to obtain the information?
- Is there an option for text only, or frames, or a suggested browser for better viewing?

Putting it all together

- Accuracy. If your page lists the author and institution that published the page and provides a way of contacting him/her and . . .
- Authority. If your page lists the author credentials and its domain is preferred (.edu, .gov, .org, or .net), and, . .
- Objectivity. If your page provides accurate information with limited advertising and it is objective in presenting the information, and . . .
- Currency. If your page is current and updated regularly (as stated on the page) and the links (if any) are also up-to-date, and . . .
- Coverage. If you can view the information properly--not limited to fees, browser technology, or software requirement, then . . .

You may have a Web page that could be of value to your research!


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Thanks for attending!
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