

Starting Your Research in the Libraries

Mark Gooch, Government Information Librarian
X2522
Mgooch@wooster.edu

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Prof. Boubacar N'Diaye

Using the Catalog

When you don't know where to begin your research it is helpful to refer to handbooks, encyclopedias, or bibliographies. These resources may provide broad coverage of your topic and include references to other, more specific resources. But how do you find these types of resources? You can use **CONSORT**, the online catalog of library materials, to quickly locate them in the libraries' reference collection. CONSORT can be accessed from the Libraries' home page or via the "Library Quick Links" on any Library web page.

To quickly locate these resources perform a **KEYWORDS** search in CONSORT. Use some general terms related to your subject as well as terms such as ENCYCLOPEDIA, HANDBOOK, ATLAS, or BIBLIOGRAPHY (type **AND** between each of the terms) and choose **WOO Reference** as the LOCATION.

Keyword Search:	KEYWORD Search Help
Type the KEYWORD(S) you want, apply any limits (using the pulldown menus), and then click the Search button:	
<input type="text" value="africa and encyclopedia"/>	
Location:	<input type="text" value="WOO Reference"/> <input type="text" value="All Libraries"/>
Computer File:	<input type="text" value="ANY"/> <input type="text" value="Projected Medium: ANY"/>
Sound Recording:	<input type="text" value="ANY"/> <input type="text" value="Language: ANY"/>
Other Material Type:	<input type="text" value="ANY"/>
Year: After	<input type="text"/> and Before <input type="text"/>
Search and Sort:	<input type="text" value="Date"/>
<input type="button" value="Search"/> <input type="button" value="Clear search"/>	

LIBRARIES

Using the library location and call number you can now locate the book in the library.

Title	Africana : the encyclopedia of the African and African American experience / editors, Kwame Anthony Appiah, Henry Louis Gates, Jr	
Publisher	New York : Basic Civitas Books, c1999	
Edition	1st ed	
LOCATION	CALL NO.	STATUS
WOO Reference	DT14 .A37435 1999	LIB USE ONLY
OWU Beeghly	DT14 .A37435 1999	LIB USE ONLY

Library Location
Call Number

If you are searching for a specific type of material such as a map you might include that as a term in a **KEYWORDS** search or possibly limit your search to that **MATERIAL** type.

Once you find relevant materials in **CONSORT** you can click on the **SUBJECT HEADINGS** in order to conduct a search for other materials listed by that subject.

Finding Resources on the World Wide Web

To begin finding resources for a subject area go to the Libraries' web site and choose the entry for **RESOURCES BY SUBJECT**. You can then refer to the page for the appropriate subject area such as **BLACK STUDIES** to find a general resource guide including relevant starting points on the WWW. Any guides created for a specific course will also be included on this page.

In addition, you can refer to the **INTERNET SEARCH TOOLS** page on the Libraries' web site. You might especially begin with the **ACADEMIC INFO** and **LIBRARIANS' INDEX TO THE INTERNET** directories. Remember that when you use WWW resources you must critically evaluate their content.

Another Good Resource

When you are unsure of how to begin your research or you start it and become stuck, you can always seek assistance at the **REFERENCE DESK**. The reference desk is staffed by the librarians and Student Reference Assistants during most hours the

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libraries are open. In addition, you can make an appointment with a librarian for an individual reference consultation. This can be done by filling out a **REFERENCE CONSULTATION** form on the Libraries' web site or by contacting one of the librarians directly. Contact information is available on the libraries' web site.