Political Science 328: International Terrorism

You can create a successful search strategy (develop a keyword statement) and use it to search SteenFind, the Internet, or the library’s databases.

1. Write your topic as a question to focus it.
2. Circle or underline the keywords (main terms). For example:
   Is it possible to successfully rehabilitate terrorists?
3. Use synonyms for your keywords. rehabilitate OR de-radicalize OR disengage
4. Combine keywords using Boolean (AND, OR), nesting (use of parentheses), and phrase searching (use of quotation marks). For example:
   (rehabilitate OR deradicaliz* OR disengage*) AND (terrorist OR jihadist)

Finding articles in refereed and peer-reviewed journals
If you want to search many databases at once, type your search terms into the box and use the pull-down menu to choose Articles & More

You can further refine your search in the right margin.

Click on a title to find which database(s) contains the article; click on the box with green checkmark; you will be directed to one of the library’s subscription databases which contains the article.

Library Databases
You can use the same strategy to find more journal articles in other databases. Go to the Research tab, then Research Guides. Some good databases are listed on the Political Science Guide.

Once you have a list of citations for articles on your topic, you will notice some have full-text availability and some do not. If it is full text you can email, save, print, or view the article on the screen. If the article is not full text, it might available in print in the library.

Use this 360 Link to Full Text in the database or Journals@Steen on the library home page to find which journals are available from Steen Library.
Things to Remember

- To see if the library has full-text access to a particular Journal or Magazine, use the Journals@Steen function from the pull-down search menu or from Quick Links.

If you do not find any matches, it is most often a spelling error. If you have spelled all of your search terms correctly, you may need to use different search terms or try a different database.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

Reports
- Antiterrorism Assistance Program Report
  http://www.state.gov/m/ds/terrorism/
- Congressional Research Service Reports on Terrorism
  http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/index.htm
- Country Reports on Terrorism (U.S. State Dept.)
  http://www.state.gov/j/ct/rls/crt/
- National Military Strategic Plan for the War on Terrorism
  http://www.cfr.org/publication/9795/national_military_strategic_plan_for_the_war_on-terrorism.html

Federal Agency Websites
- Bureau of Counterterrorism-US Department of State
  http://www.state.gov/j/ct/
- CDC-Bioterrorism
  https://emergency.cdc.gov/bioterrorism/
- FBI-Terrorism
  http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/investigate/terrorism
- Homeland Security-Preventing Terrorism
  https://www.dhs.gov/preventing-terrorism
- Library of Congress-Terrorism (including War Powers, Money Laundering, Aviation safety)

The Internet
You can use your search strategy on the World Wide Web to find information. However, you have to evaluate this information! Is it credible? Ask yourself a few questions as you look at a web site.

- Is the information reliable? Who is the author and what are their credentials?
- Who is the sponsor of the site? Are they reputable? Would they be biased?
- Is contact information included? When was the last update? Do the links work?

You can use a site’s domain name for clues about the producer of the information.
Some common domain types:
- .com - commercial network
- .org – non-commercial organization
- .mil – U. S. military
- .aero – air-transport industry
- .edu - educational institution
- .net – network (Internet service)
- .gov – U. S. government
- .biz – businesses