SWK455—Research Practicum

Search Strategies
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:
   “What programs exist for adolescent substance abusers in rural East Texas? “
3. Use synonyms for your keywords. Programs OR Services OR Treatment
4. Combine keywords using Boolean (AND, OR), nesting (use of parentheses), and phrase searching (use of quotation marks). For example:
   (programs OR services) AND (adolescent OR teen) AND “substance abuse” AND rural Texas

Subject Databases
The Subject Databases give the most in-depth coverage of journals in your field of study. They have fewer articles in popular magazines and newspapers and more in scholarly journals. Subject Databases generally considered the best sources for a discipline are listed in the Research Guides. Here is an example of the Subject Databases for Social Work:

PsychInfo allows you to limit a search to studies that use a particular Methodology:

Use the Advanced Search option
Scroll down to Methodology and select one (or more) methods
Example: quantitative study
Enter your search query: (intervention OR treatment OR program) AND “substance abuse” AND juvenile
Further REFINE RESULTS on the left margin as to source type; publication date; etc.
Tames the Internet by limiting search results to scholarly material (i.e. peer-reviewed articles, etc.). To use it, go to the Database A-Z list through Quick Links, or find it listed on many of the Research Guides. That way, there will be links to the full-text of the articles to which the Steen Library has access.

**Dissertations and Theses**

Doctoral Dissertations and Master’s Theses are usually extensive, original research projects with lengthy and useful Works Cited lists. The *Dissertations & Theses* database is a great finding tool for them.

---

Search query: (treatment OR services) AND “substance abuse” AND (teen OR adolescent AND “qualitative research”)
How do I locate the article when I have a citation?


Follow the instructions below:

1. Go into the Quick Links and find Journals@Steen.
2. Enter the Journal title and hit Search

Find journals by title or ISSN

```
Title equals ▼ Child Development Search Clear Search Box
```

Browse journals by title

```
Browse journals by subject

--- Please select a subject category --- ▼ [Search]
```

3. Below the journal title, review the list of databases.

**Child development** (0009-3920)

from 03/01/1930 to 1 year ago in Academic Search Complete
from 03/01/1930 to 1 year ago in Professional Development Collection
from 03/01/1930 to 1 year ago in Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection
from 03/01/1930 to 1 year ago in SocINDEX with Full Text
from 03/01/1930 to 11/30/2009 in JSTOR Arts & Sciences IV
from v. 1, 1930 to v. 76, 2005 in Stephen F. Austin State University's Print Holdings

4. Compare the date needed with the available dates listed for each database.

5. Choose the database that will provide the date you need.

6. Follow the link to the appropriate database; use the year list on the right side of the screen and select the year, and then the volume needed. Now look for the article title or the page numbers for the article.

7. If there is not an electronic match for your journal title and date:
   a. Look for a link that says “in Stephen F. Austin State University's Print Holdings.”
   b. Note the dates listed for the print journal housed in the Steen Library print holdings.
   c. If we have the year needed, then click on Stephen F. Austin State University's Print Holdings, find the call number, and retrieve the journal. Issues of the journals are upstairs: A-N call numbers on 4th floor; P-Z call numbers on the 3rd floor.

8. If you need the article and we don’t have it, use Interlibrary Loan (found in Quick Links). Register with the SFASU interlibrary loan system called ILLiad. It is FREE! Then, you can request the article you need.

Revised by TAO/KCH, 9/17/2016
WHAT IS AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY?

An annotated bibliography is a list of citations to books, articles, and documents. Each citation is followed by a brief (usually about 150 words) descriptive and evaluative paragraph, the annotation. The purpose of the annotation is to inform the reader of the relevance, accuracy, and quality of the sources cited.

ANNOTATIONS VS. ABSTRACTS

Abstracts are the purely descriptive summaries often found at the beginning of scholarly journal articles or in periodical indexes. Annotations are descriptive and critical; they expose the author's point of view, clarity and appropriateness of expression, and authority.

THE PROCESS

Creating an annotated bibliography calls for the application of a variety of intellectual skills: concise exposition, succinct analysis, and informed library research.

First, locate and record citations to books, periodicals, and documents that may contain useful information and ideas on your topic. Briefly examine and review the actual items. Then choose those works that provide a variety of perspectives on your topic.

Cite the book, article, or document using the appropriate style.

Write a concise annotation that summarizes the central theme and scope of the book or article. Include one or more sentences that (a) evaluate the authority or background of the author, (b) comment on the intended audience, (c) compare or contrast this work with another you have cited, or (d) explain how this work illuminates your bibliography topic.

SAMPLE ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ENTRY FOR A JOURNAL ARTICLE

The following example uses the APA format for the journal citation.


The authors, researchers at the Rand Corporation and Brown University, use data from the National Longitudinal Surveys of Young Women and Young Men to test their hypothesis that nonfamily living by young adults alters their attitudes, values, plans, and expectations, moving them away from their belief in traditional sex roles. They find their hypothesis strongly supported in young females, while the effects were fewer in studies of young males. Increasing the time away from parents before marrying increased individualism, self-sufficiency, and changes in attitudes about families. In contrast, an earlier study by Williams cited below shows no significant gender differences in sex role attitudes as a result of nonfamily living.