

FLK 201 – Introduction to Folklore, Fall 2010

Department of Folklore & Anthropology

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Goals

So why are you here for this session? Because you will be writing research papers this autumn for this Folklore class. I want to make sure that you know how to search the UA Catalog and Databases as well as how to perform basic resource assessment, so that you don't waste limited research time on non-productive, repetitive, or irrelevant pursuits.

Objectives

By the end of this session, you will have learned how to

- ✓ Find the folklore-related reference books in Gorgas
- ✓ Choose databases appropriate for folklore research
- ✓ Learn how to:
 - perform a search,
 - evaluate results, and
 - save useful items, either through:
 - sending yourself an e-mail link to the article
 - printing out the article
 - saving the article to a flashdrive
- ✓ Learn how to find citation information (there is an entertaining plagiarism video on the Folklore LibGuide @ http://libraryschool.campusguides.com/KBragg_UA_LS590)
- ✓ Learn how to find high-quality online resources (there are several scholarly folklore associations online which provide online resources, but other websites are quite poor)

Library Overview

The Gorgas stacks have a wonderful assortment of reference books with background information to build a solid foundation on the themes of folklore in general, as well as books about particular folklore associated with geographic regions. Depending on the aspect of folklore that you're looking for, books can be found in several locations, and the maps for each floor can be found at <http://www.lib.ua.edu/floorplans/gorgas/gorgasflrpln.htm> (the floor plans are also provided at the end of this handout).

- Second Floor Mezzanine
- Third Floor
- Fourth Floor Mezzanine

Research Basics – Books, Databases, & Internet Resources

It's best to start with books to get a broad overview; this builds your knowledge base and evaluation skills so that you can advance to articles. Once you really understand to look at books & articles to verify their quality and applicability for a paper, you can move [cautiously] on to internet resources.

Just so that you're not thrown completely for a loop on your first visit, here are some questions* a librarian might ask you when you go into the library to perform research. Even a few minutes thinking about these things beforehand can really help make your trip to the library a great experience.

- What were you thinking about?
- How were you going to go about solving the problem?
- Tell me where you've looked already.
- What is it you are looking for, exactly?
- Can you describe the search strategy you have used so far?

*From Beck, S and Turner, N. (2001), On the Fly BI: Reaching and Teaching from the Reference Desk. *The Reference Librarian* 34(72), 83-96.

Books [UA's Scout catalog = <http://lib.ua.edu/>]

- ✓ Using the UA's Scout Catalog (plus, how to use a known call number to locate like resources on the shelves)

Samples of good book resources:

Archetypes and motifs in folklore and literature: a handbook - Jane Garry and Hasan El-Shamy, editors; **Call Number:** GR72.56 .A73 2005 (Gorgas Library)

Folklore: An Encyclopedia of Beliefs, Customs, Tales, Music and Art - Thomas Greene; **Call Number:** GR35 .F63 1997 (Gorgas Library)

Folklore: a study and research guide - Jan Harold Brunvand and M. Thomas Inge; **Call Number:** Z5981 .B78 (Annex)

You can see how the call numbers vary based on how the author is approaching the subject of folklore – use these call numbers to look for other items nearby on the shelves (this is known as “serendipitous finding”)

Task: Think about an aspect of folklore that you might like to research. Using at least 2 of the questions listed above, write brief answers to those questions in the box below.

Although you don't have to turn in this assignment, it will help get you in the practice of keeping a Research Log – Logs make sure you don't repeat research unnecessarily!!

Research Log:

Databases [Database home page = <http://www.lib.ua.edu/content/databases/>]

- ✓ Using the Database Finder (you can choose multiple topics and multiple formats)
- ✓ How to get to a Particular Database by using the “Browse Alphabetical List” tool.

Best Databases for Folklore Research. *If you see the terms “scholarly” or “peer-reviewed”, it means the articles were reviewed by experts in the field and found to be worthy of publication (we will be looking at the highlighted databases in this session):*

Expanded Academic ASAP (contains folklore as discussed in various disciplines in both popular and scholarly journals)

JSTOR (older items, many from the 1800's; general-purpose database covering anthropology, literature of English and various foreign languages, and history)

Literature Resource Center (coverage includes all genres and disciplines, all time periods, and all regions of the world)

Project MUSE (400 scholarly journals in the humanities and social sciences, newer items from the last half of the 20th century)

Web of Science (general purpose database covering Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences Citation Indexes; provides “Article Linker” w/results so you can locate article)

✓ **How to use the Expanded Academic ASAP**

- Basic Search & Advanced Search

Basic & Advanced Searching in Expanded Academic ASAP

- Will this article help me?

Assessing article content in Expanded Academic ASAP

- What if I need to print or save it?

How to print & save results in Expanded Academic ASAP

- I don't want to get accused of plagiarism, where do I find citation info? (Choose citation styles: <http://franklincollege.libguides.com/content.php?pid=33618&sid=501078>)

How to get the citation information in Expanded Academic ASAP

✓ **How to use the JSTOR Database**

- Basic Search

How to do a Basic Search in JSTOR:

- Will this article help me? how to view results

How to assess an article's contents in JSTOR:

- What if I need to print or save it? How to print & save results

How to print & save results in JSTOR:

- I don't want to get accused of plagiarism, how do I get the citation?

How to get the citation information in JSTOR:

Task: Using your initial research topic from above, do a basic search in one of the databases, assess a result, and practice sending yourself both a link to the article as well as printing out a short article.

Although you don't have to turn in this assignment, it will help you realize that while databases can look different, they usually contain the same features – ability to view abstracts, printing capabilities, and citation information!!

Internet Resources: Online Folklore Associations/Information

✓ How to Assess online information

Make sure that website is worthy of all the work you're putting in! This page from the Ohio University Libraries LibGuide lists criteria for evaluating website content (Retrieved from <http://libguides.library.ohiou.edu/content.php?pid=66047&sid=532627>):

It's referred to as the CRAP test: (if the site doesn't meet these criteria, it's not good).

1. **Currency** (How recent is the info? Is it current enough to use? Is it updated regularly?)
2. **Reliability** (What kind of info is included? Is it accurate? Are there sources for data?)
3. **Authority** (Are authors listed? What are their credentials? Who is the publisher?)
4. **Purpose/POV** (Is purpose clearly stated? Does author state opinions? Is it biased or are all sides fairly presented? Is it a mask for advertising?)

Here are 2 web sites. Do you think they're scholarly enough for research? Why or Why not? (<http://folkloreandmyth.netfirms.com/>; <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/onlinecollections.html>)

Choose 1 of the websites shown and state 1 or 2 reasons why you think it is (or isn't) a good site. We will briefly discuss this as a group before today's session is over.

REMEMBER, IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, YOU CAN FIND HELP USING THE FOLLOWING:

- Call the Gorgas Library Help Desk @ (205) 348-6047
- Send an e-mail to Ask A Librarian using the link @ <http://www.lib.ua.edu/>
- Visit the Gorgas Library Help Desk
- Text Questions to (205)377-0920 FROM 9-5, M-F (*standard text messaging charges apply*)
- Send me an e-mail @ kbragg@crimson.ua.edu

ASSESSMENTSURVEY – Please fill out and return completed form either to your professor or place in the Gorgas Library Book Return by Dec 6, 2010 (the end of finals week). Your input will help improve this session, so thank you!

1. Is this the first library instruction session you have attended at the University of Alabama? (Library tours do not count.)

a) Yes

b) No

2. Did you learn something new during this Research Session?

a) Yes

b) No

3. This question asks you to compare how you felt about using the Library to do research for class assignments BEFORE and AFTER you attended Folklore Research session.

	<u>Anxious</u>	<u>Somewhat comfortable</u>	<u>Comfortable</u>	<u>Confident</u>
Before the Folklore Research session:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
After the Folklore Research session:	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4. Please respond to these questions based on your Folklore Research library instruction session today.

	<u>Strongly agree</u>	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>Strongly disagree</u>
The librarian was enthusiastic about teaching and the library.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The librarian presented the subject matter in a clear, understandable, organized manner.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The librarian was knowledgeable and responsive to questions.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The purpose of the library session was clear.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The handouts that were distributed were helpful.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The LibGuide designed for this session was helpful.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My research skills will improve as a result of attending this library session.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. **Comments / Suggestions:** (please use the back of this survey sheet)