Tips for Searching for Primary & Secondary Sources


Gale Power Search in Maine Digital Library

From Library Resources Page:

- Choose Maine Digital Library. At the top of the screen, click on Advanced Search. Then, Gale Power Search. You may be asked to verify your “Geolocation” if so click yes, “Use My Location.”
- Click Advanced Search at the top of your screen a second time.
- Enter search terms. Combine terms if desired by using limiters or expanders, “and,” “or,” “not.” or consult Subjects below each entry for search term ideas.
- To specific certain dates, choose “after” and use the drop down menus to restrict date ranges.
- Note “Content Types” on right side of results list.
- Search a specific Journal Title if desired by selecting “Publications” at top. Note available Archives.
- If you find an article online that requires a fee, use the Publication search feature of Power Search to see if the journal is available in the archive. Don’t pay money, see us!

Save to Google Drive Feature adds a full text article to your drive, and creates a Power Search folder for all of your articles – to stay organized!

Primary Source: original materials on which other research is based. Original thinking that reports a discovery, or shares new information.

Secondary Source: Interpretations and evaluations of primary sources.

Tertiary Source: Collection of primary and secondary source information.
Other Resources to Search

Library Database Page (contains specific databases not integrated with Maine Digital Library)

News Sources

Primary Source Links

Search the Bangor Public Library Catalog for books on your topic. Fill out a slip for an ILL request if you need assistance checking out a book. We also have applications for library cards if you would like one.

Search for articles using Google Scholar

General Research Strategies:

- If your search doesn’t produce results, revise by checking spelling, widen the search or broaden dates.
- With each search, note what terms produce “Hits.” Scan article abstracts for additional search terminology.
- Look for all necessary library passwords located in the Library Password Brochure available at the front desk.
- If searching produces an article that is not available full text through BHS Library links and other search strategies, locate the complete citation, print it out, write your name on it, and see Ms. Gould, or Ms. Watson for further assistance. We will search our ILL accounts and other sources in an attempt to Inter Library loan the article for you.

Citations

Citing Other Common Sources – Owl Purdue

Owl Purdue Citation Site  Easy Bib  http://www.easybib.com/  Bib Me  http://www.bibme.org/

APA/MLA citations for books, images, and other resource formats are located at the Owl Purdue Writing Lab. Search for citation tools in each database you are using.

(Watson 2019)