

Media/Cinema Studies LIBRARY/DATABASE Research Tips •••••••••• J. ZAY

1.) <http://nettrail.ucsc.edu/index.html> This is the University of California, Santa Cruz Library tutorial on INFORMATION LITERACY. I STRONGLY encourage you to take a look. It can take between 10 and 30 minutes to explore the variety of pages they've organized, based on how extensively you explore. The one thing to keep in mind is that some of the UCSC resources may be slightly different from Evergreen's. When in doubt, ask a Evergreen reference librarian. A couple of the things I love about this tutorial is that it teaches you how to be a more *effective sleuth* of information on your topic, and even helps you learn how to figure out what concepts, terms, or sub-topics are related to your original idea. It helps you learn how to narrow your research focus when necessary, or to widen the cast of your net when necessary. Ultimately, improving your research skills always improves your critical thinking skills. No question about it.

On the following UCSC Nettrail page: <http://nettrail.ucsc.edu/articles/index.html> there is a reference to "ARTICLE DATABASES" found on the UCSC library website.

The Evergreen Library's page of ARTICLE DATABASES can be found here:

<http://www.evergreen.edu/library/catalog/reference&journals.htm>

You can also get there from the main Evergreen Library page. Under the SEARCH ELECTRONIC RESOURCES & DATABASES column, click REFERENCE & JOURNALS.

2.) As mentioned on the UCSC Nettrail pages, often, you won't find a whole book on your topic or sub-topic. In the Arts & Humanities (Film/Video/Cinema studies, you'll find many edited volumes of articles by various writers on a certain topic. In order to unearth these, you'll need to search by SUBJECT and/or KEYWORD. THIS IS IMPORTANT! Always try ALL search possibilities: KEYWORD and SUBJECT, as well as TITLE or AUTHOR. When you can't find what you're looking for in books, often the most recent writings on contemporary film and video, particularly on very independent, short, or non-commercial work, is found in ACADEMIC/PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS.

The 2 best databases to search for Arts/Humanities JOURNAL articles are: **ebSCOHOST**: Access from a link here: <http://www.evergreen.edu/library/catalog/E1.htm>

jstor: Access from a link here: <http://www.evergreen.edu/library/catalog/J1.htm> You must be on campus or connected via modem to the campus server to connect (these databases are subscription-only and they need to verify that you have a subscriber IP address). Additionally, you may find that Evergreen does not subscribe to the full-text of all the journals that these databases cover, so you may see an article listed but you won't be able to download the full-text of this article.

You have 2 options then: 1) request the article through ILL (interlibrary loan) OR

2) take a research trip up to Tacoma to the UW Tacoma Library or to Seattle to the UW Library. I always recommend that students take AT LEAST ONE trip to a large university library in their time at Evergreen. You'll be like a kid in a candy store.

Please ask questions when in doubt. And please enjoy.