Resources for CPS Students in Criminal Justice at the Lightner Library

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CPS Librarian
Librarians Can Help You:

- Figure out how and where to locate different types of resources
- Formulate effective search terms
- Evaluate resources for credibility and bias/perspective
- With citation and format in your assignments

Disclaimer: This doesn’t mean we do it for you! But we will show you how and answer your questions as best as we can.
Physical Materials

- Books
  - Library Catalog
    - General Collection
    - Reference
  - DVDS
    - Library Catalog
    - Video Collection
    - Entertainment DVDs
- Journals
  - Find a Journal Title
    - Newspapers
    - Magazines
    - Journals
Digital Materials

- E-Books
  - Find an E-Book

- Reference Databases
  - Databases by Subject

- Journal Articles
  - Databases by Subject
  - Find an Article
  - Find a Journal Title
Types of Journals

Also known as “Periodicals”

Newspapers, Magazines, Scholarly Journals

How do you tell the difference?
Newspapers (Popular)

- Current events
- Local / regional focus
- Written for general public
- Published daily or weekly
- Newsprint, some color, ads
- No formal list of references
Magazines (Popular)

- Specific interests and/or current events
- Brief articles and interviews
- Written for general public
- Published weekly or monthly
- Glossy and colorful; Lots of pictures and ads
- No formal list of references
Scholarly Journals

- Reports of original research
- In-depth analysis of topics
- Written for experts in the field
- Published quarterly, semi-annually, or monthly
- Book-like, usually black and white
- Few or no pictures and ads
- All references cited; peer-reviewed
Best Bet Databases
For Criminal Justice

Reference Databases
- CQ Researcher
- Gale Virtual Reference Library
- Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- Sage Reference

Article Databases
- EBSCOhost Databases
  - Academic Search Premier
  - Criminal Justice Abstracts with Full Text
  - OmniFile
  - PsycARTICLES
  - SocINDEX

- Other Databases
  - LexisNexis
  - Proquest
  - Criminal Justice Collection
Brainstorming Search Terms

- Write your topic out as a sentence or question
- Underline the key words or concepts
- Think of other words to describe your topic
  - Synonyms or related words
- Start Simple! Add more words as you go.
- Do more than one search. Try different words.
- Figure out which terms get you the best results
- You may need to do some background research to identify more search terms.
Topic as a sentence/question:
Should juveniles receive the death penalty?

Keywords:
Juveniles, Death Penalty

Synonyms or related terms:
- Juveniles: Children, Youth, Minors, Adolescents
- Death Penalty: Capital Punishment, Criminal Sentencing
Search Term Tips & Tricks

Criminal Justice

- Acts as a wildcard (any number of letters can go here)

- Makes those words show up together in that order in your results
How do we find journal articles?

Especially those peer-reviewed articles!

Library Website has 3 ways:

- **Databases by Subject** – good for beginners
- **Find an Article** – quick links to databases
- **Find a Journal Title** – you already know the journal title and/or are trying to find a specific article you know exists

Use Google Scholar as a Last Resort

We don’t recommend Google Scholar as your first stop for research. Here’s why:

- You won’t get the same articles you would from a database
- Can’t sort popular from scholarly (peer-reviewed)
- Can’t limit to full text
- You only have access to what is freely available

The library pays for subscriptions to databases filled with high-quality content that you cannot access with Google Scholar.
If you must use Google...

- Look for well-known online news sources, magazines, or blogs
- .gov, .edu, and .org sites are *usually* more trustworthy
- Be extra critical in evaluating sources you find on the open web
  - Who is the author?
  - Has this been edited in any way?
  - Opinion or objective?
  - Read the About or Mission Statement
Help!! I need help!!

- **Library Guides** *made by KC Librarians*
  - Help you get started with research
  - General “How-To”s
  - Video Tutorials, Links, Information
  - Guides made just for you! CPS guides
Help!! I need help!!

- Citation & Formatting Help
  - Library Website – Links on the right
  - Email me for an APA check (allow 24 hours)
  - Email the Writing Center for a thorough check (allow 48 hours): asapwritinghelp@keuka.edu
Help!! I need help!!

- Contact Us!!
  - Chat window
  - Ask a Librarian
  - Phone: Reference Desk: (315) 279-5473
    - Circulation Desk: (315) 279-5632
  - Email me: ahiggins@keuka.edu