

Ohlone College LRC — English 101A

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Popular Culture

The **WWW** is an excellent source of information on **Popular Culture**. It is ALWAYS your job to think critically about the information you find, regardless of the source, but Web sources present a special challenge. Why?

- The materials found on the Web are not “selected” as in a library collection;
- No standards or guidelines exist for inclusion on the free Internet.

Give every website the Reliability Test:

- Consult multiple sources to verify information.
- Beware of sites that seem biased or push a specific agenda if searching for “facts”.
- Pay attention to URL suffixes. U.S. sites are assigned a suffix according to the groups or individuals who own them.

Comprehensive Guide to Evaluating Web resources on LRC Website!!

<http://www2.ohlone.edu/org/library/webeval.html>

Enter the URL www.dhmo.org Evaluate for Authority!

Enter: <http://www.growthenergy.org/2009/index.asp> Evaluate for Objectivity!

Excellent Web Sources on Popular Culture and related topics:

Some Starting Point Search Terms: Popular Culture; common culture; folk culture; mass culture

- Librarian’s Internet Index: Websites You Can Trust: <http://lii.org/>
- Pew Research Center: <http://pewresearch.org/>
- NPR Pop Culture: <http://www.npr.org/templates/topics/topic.php?topicId=1048>
- Washington State University, American Studies Program / Popular Culture: Resources for Critical Analysis: <http://www.wsu.edu/~amerstu/pop/tvrguide.html>
- Indiana University-Purdue University Indiana (IUPUI) Anthropology course syllabus: <http://www.iupui.edu/~anthpm/links.html#Popular%20Culture>

From the **Ohlone Library Homepage**: <http://www2.ohlone.edu/org/library/>, select the **Search for Articles** link under **Research Tools** (works best using **Internet Explorer**)

General Search Tips:

- If searching from home, enter your **Ohlone College student ID** and **last name** at the log-in to be granted access to subscription databases.
- A **Subject** search will always retrieve more precise results over a **Keyword** search. If you find a good article, check to see the assigned **Subject Headings** (also called **Descriptors**), then combine those terms to search for more articles. If not getting enough results, try a **keyword** search.
- ALWAYS save your citation information AS YOU COLLECT YOUR SOURCES!!

SIRS Researcher

- Find **Social Sciences** subject category on right side of page. Find **SIRS Researcher**
- Start at the **Homepage** (To navigate back to **Homepage**, click on the **SIRS®** icon at top left-hand corner of page):
- Looking for topic ideas? Click on the **Topic Browse** tab & explore categories.
- Navigate back to **Homepage** (click on the **SIRS®** icon at top left-hand corner of page):
- Find **Your Top 10 Pro Vs. Con** box at right of page
 - Click on the **More Issues...** link (bottom right of **Pro Vs. Con** box)
 - Under **Leading Issues** click on topic, i.e., **Popular Culture**
- On **Popular Culture** page, review **Topic Overview** box at left
 - Find **Research Tools** (icons at the bottom of box):
 - Explore **Timeline, Global Impact, Statistics** links—all applied to the topic
 - Explore **Research Guides & Note Organizer**. Learn how to manage your research findings!
 - Back on Homepage, find **Pro/Con Issues & Essential Questions** box.
 - Consider & review **YES / NO** overviews & selected sources

- Scroll down to review Results List
 - Find **Sort results by** field at left, sort results by **date** (most recently published) or **relevance** (most connected to your topic)
- Review **Summary** of articles in **Results List** before reading article!
- Click on article titles to read **full-text**. You may **email** or **print** articles from this page
- At bottom of **Summary**, explore links to related topics in the **Subjects** line
- How to save good articles for later (you may need to use Internet Explorer with this function):
 - Check the **Added to My List** box at bottom of Summary
 - Find **My List** at top of page. From drop-down menu, select **Session Save**
 - Enter a **username & password** you will remember
 - Enter the same **username & password** to retrieve a session (sessions saved for 1-month)
- How to retrieve a **Session Saved list**:
 - From **homepage**, find drop-down menu on **My List**, select **Session Save**
 - Enter username & password & click on **Retrieve a Session** , click on **Tagged List**

Academic Search Premier:

- Create a personalized **My EbscoHost** account!
- Find Sign In to **My EbscoHost** on top tool bar
- Find **I'm a New User** at far left-side of page. Follow prompts to create a **personal account**

Sample Search:

- On **Basic Search** page, enter keyword: **TV Commercials**. How many **Results** are retrieved? _____
- Review **Subject: Thesaurus Term** list on left—reveals the database's controlled vocabulary (**Subject Headings**)
- Begin a list of terms that relates to your topic. For this search, we'll use **Television Commercials & Television Advertising**
- Click on **New Search** at top left of page. Enter **Television Advertising** in top search field. Click on **drop-down menu** in search field at right. Select **SU Subject Term**, then click **Search**. How many **Results** now? _____
- Now enter **Television Advertising** in 2nd row search field at top, select **SU Subject Term** at right, click **Search**. How many **Results** now? _____
- Review list of **Subject: Thesaurus Terms** again. Click on **More**. Notice **Advertising Campaigns**. Enter this term in the 3rd row of search fields at top. Select **SU Subject Term**. Click **Search**.
- Find **Sort by**, select **Relevance**. Notice re-ordering of **Results** list. Notice **relevancy** meter on articles.
- Find **Limit your Results** on left. Click on **Search Options** link at bottom of box.
- Select **Full-Text**. In **Published Date from:** enter **Jan. 1990**; in **Number of Pages:** select **Greater than** from drop-down menu. Enter **1** in field at right. Click **Search**. How many **Results** now? _____.
- Click on article title links. Read **Abstracts** to determine appropriateness. Review lists of **Subject Terms** & collect new ones related to your topic. These can be combined in various ways in new searches to yield different results.
- Return to **Results List**. Click on **Add to Folder** link for at least two articles. Notice **Folder has Items** added at right.
- Find and click on **Folder View**. Click on boxes next to article to **Select** items. To email selected articles to yourself or others, click on **Email icon**. Remember to select appropriate **Citation Format (MLA)**. Fill in email address information. Click send. Check your emails.
- Don't forget to sign into your **Personal Account** whenever you use **Academic Search Premier**

Net Library Gale & Virtual Reference Library: Like all reference sources, these e-Reference Books are good sources for general overviews of topics from a variety of perspectives. Try these sample searches:

- Return to **Library Database Homepage**
- Under **General** subject category, select **Net Library**
 - Select **Keyword** from drop-down menu at left.
 - Enter search term, **popular culture**
- Navigate back to **Library Database Homepage**
- Select **Gale Virtual Reference Library**
 - Enter search term, *vampires*

Any Questions? Ask a Librarian!