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## EUS250 – SENIOR THESIS

PROF. NINA WARNKE

The location and call number of each publication is given in parentheses at the end of its bibliographic entry. All publications in this guide may be found on the 4th level (the main floor) of the Central Library unless otherwise noted. The URL for the Vanderbilt Library home page is <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/>.

### Defining Your Topic

Articles found in subject encyclopedias, handbooks, textbooks, and reviews summarize the literature on a given topic, rather than report an individual author's original research. They are a good place to begin your research because:

1. You can get a basic understanding of the **concepts and issues** associated with your topic.
2. You may get ideas about how to **refine or narrow your topic**.
3. You can use them to find **alternate terms** for your topic to use as keywords in your database searching.
4. You can look at the **bibliographies** at the end of the articles to try to identify articles for your paper.

**SEARCH HINT: You need to critically evaluate your sources (especially websites). Use the C.R.A.P. Test.**

### Scholarly Periodical Databases

At the Vanderbilt Library home page → “Find Articles and Databases” (upper right) → “Need an article on a topic?” → Find a database by subject. If you know the name of the database you want, enter the database name or acronym into the “database by name” search box.

#### CSA Illumina Databases

ARTbibliographies Modern, 1974-Current

Modern and contemporary art, photography and design

Bibliography of the History of Art, 1973-Current

The history of Western art from late antiquity to the present

PAIS International, 1972-Current

Public affairs, public and social policies, international relations

PsycINFO, 1806-Current

Applied psychology, developmental psychology, personality

Worldwide Political Science Abstracts (WPSA), 1975-Current

Comprehensive index to politics, international relations, government, public policy

1. Click on the green “Advanced Search” tab.
2. Enter your topic.
3. Check below the green search box to see if there are any options for narrowing your search. For example, in PsychINFO, you can narrow your search by language, date age, and other parameters.
4. Click on the green “search” box.
5. You can narrow your search by looking at the “Descriptors” to the right of the results. You can substitute a descriptor (subject) for the similar keyword in your original search and search again.
6. If the article that you want is not available in full text directly from the database, use FindIt@VU. To see if it is available in full text on another Vanderbilt database.
7. The wild card is an \* (asterisk)

## Ebsco Databases

- America: History and Life (AHL), 1974-Current  
Comprehensive index to articles about U.S. and Canadian History
- Communication and Mass Media Complete (CMMC), 1974-Current  
Comprehensive index to articles about communication studies and mass media
- EconLit, 1973-Current  
Comprehensive index to Economics Articles.
- Historical Abstracts (HA), 1972-Current  
Comprehensive index to articles on history, except for U.S. and Canadian history

1. Enter your topic.
2. Click on the green "search" box.
3. You can narrow your search by clicking one of the subjects to the left of the results. You can substitute a subject for the similar keyword in your original search and search again.
4. If the article that you want is not available in full text directly from the database, use FindIt@VU. To see if it is available in full text on another Vanderbilt database.
5. The wild card is an \* (asterisk)

## Acorn

At the Vanderbilt Library home page → "Find Books and Other Items" (upper left) → "Acorn"

Acorn is the catalog for all 9 libraries in the Heard Library system, as well as a few other libraries on campus (like the Women's Center and the Family Resource Center). It lists almost all books in all Vanderbilt libraries and most U.S. government publications distributed after July 1976. It lists which periodicals we subscribe to, but does not list individual articles.

**For books by a specific author**, enter the author's name (surname first), then select "author begins with" from the drop-down menu

**For a specific book**, enter the first few words of the title, then select "title begins with" from the drop-down menu

**For items on a topic**, enter the keywords for the topic, and select "words anywhere" from the drop-down menu. For keyword searching only, **use a \$ to substitute for word endings** (for example, working paper\$). To search for a phrase, enclose the phrase with single rather than double quotes (for example, 'north atlantic treaty').

After you get the search results, you can click on one "Subject (LC)" to narrow your topic or you can type all or the first part of "Subject (LC)" and choose **subject begins with** from the pull-down menu and click on "search."

Sample **subject begins with** headings:

World War, 1939-1945--Germany  
European Union countries--Economic conditions  
Art thefts

After finding the call numbers for the books you want, check the location chart by the main elevators to find out the level on which those books are shelved.

**Browse: Look at other books shelved near the books listed in Acorn, since they will be about similar subjects.**

## Interlibrary Loan

With 9 campus libraries we have a huge number of books and journals, but sometimes it's not enough...

**What are my options?**

**Request the Item Via Interlibrary Loan (ILL):**

What is ILL?

- ILL provides requests from other libraries for you to borrow books or get copies of articles that the Library does not own
- Items can be requested from across town, across the country, or around the world
- Most items arrive in 10 days
- There is **no charge** to you for this service

How do I submit a request?

Log in to your secure, personal ILL account and choose a request form


Or, click on , available in many databases and online catalogs, to request items as you search.

How do I find the information for the ILL request form?

Use WorldCat to find all of the information you'll need about a book or magazine for the ILL request form.

## WorldCat

WorldCat contains more than 125 million records describing items owned by U.S. libraries and libraries around the world. Each record includes which libraries own that item. Almost all books and magazine titles are listed.

1. Click on the Advanced Search tab.
2. Using the terms from your Acorn "subject begins with" searches, enter your topic. Using the pull-down menu, change "keyword" to "subject."
3. **OR** enter the author and/or title of a book that you couldn't find on Acorn. Change "keyword" to the appropriate option.
4. You can limit by a range of years for publication and "English" for language. Set "subunit limits": audience "not juvenile and content to "not fiction." You may want to "limit type" to books.
5. Click on the blue "search" box.
6. Click on a title and look at its record.
7. Click on . The next screen will tell you if we have it online or in print. If we don't have it, click on the "Request via Interlibrary Loan/Document Delivery Service" option.
8. Enter your VUNet ID and password.
9. Fill in any additional information and click on "Submit request."

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Include the CRAP test sheet as page 4