

# Communication Studies

## *Masters Level Research*

### Guide

**Get to the databases:** <http://www.csulb.edu/library>

**Get to the Slides:** <http://www.csulb.edu/~ttravis/classes/communications.htm>

**Workshops:** <http://www.csulb.edu/library/instruction/workshops.html>

#### **Before you get to the computer...**

1. Start with a Research Topic
2. Identify keywords & synonyms
3. Create search statements using And, Or, W1

**AND** narrows a search.

example: television AND viewing

**OR** broadens a search.

example: viewing OR watching

**W1** makes your terms appear together as a phrase

example: reality w1 television

#### **Helpful Search Tips**

##### **Truncation \***

Allows you to include all possible word-endings

Theor\* looks for theory, theories and theorize

##### **Parenthesis**

Can be used to greatly expand or restrict a search

(internet or online) and social w1 interaction

#### **Psycinfo Search tips**

- Use subjects to narrow your search
- Use publication type, methodology or age group to make your search smaller
- Type the word *communication* in the "journal articles" box to eliminate psychology journals
- Email using APA format

#### **Communication and Mass Media complete**

- Use Thesaurus and author keywords
- ALWAYS click on the Scholarly Peer Reviewed option
- Try the "more like this option"

#### **Coast and Link Plus**

- Use for finding books and other media
- You can only request books from link +; takes 3-5 working days
- Search for "electronic books" to find ebooks

#### **Web Of Science**

- Use this to find out who has cited a particular article or scholar
- Use Cited Reference Search

## Refworks

- Use this to manage your references and format your papers
- Compatible with both CMMC and PsycInfo
- Attend a workshop if you need more information

## Review the TWO step process for getting journal articles

### Step ONE

- Get citations from index
- Author, title, journal title, volume, page number year

### Step TWO

- If you are using a research database click on the SFX link if it is available
- If you are find your article citation in print- search the catalog by [JOURNAL title](#) to see if we own it electronically or in print
- Use ArticleReach for the fastest possible turnaround for ILL- make sure you check the box that says you searched COAST or else your request gets bounced back!!!

## APA Paper Formatting and Style Guide (Purdue University)

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/> (easier to search in Google: purdue apa owl)

## Tips for finding Communication Theories

Search for articles by the author of the theory

Search for articles with the theory name

- Cognitive w1 dissonance

Keep in mind sometimes people will refer to the theory without using the word theory

- Social penetration or social penetration theory

## How to Get a Library Password

Go to Coast <https://coast.library.csulb.edu/patroninfo>

Type in your name, CSULB I.D. #, and a PIN/Password number of your choice

Confirm Password by typing it twice more

If just shows your name- it worked!

## **STILL Need Help?**

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