



# Library Research for THST6090 Pro Seminar

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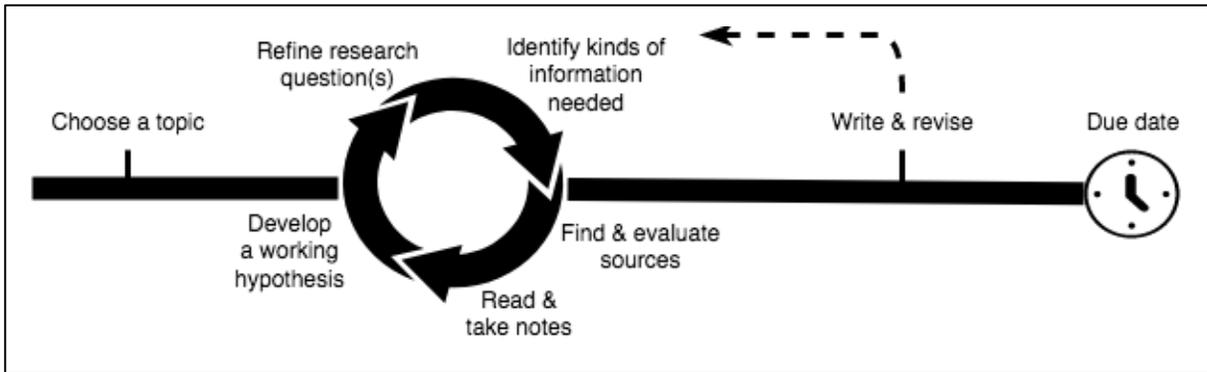
## 1) Library Research at LMU

### Useful Links

- Library homepage: [library.lmu.edu](http://library.lmu.edu)
- Library student services: [library.lmu.edu/student-services](http://library.lmu.edu/student-services)
- Get library/research help anytime: [library.lmu.edu/gethelp](http://library.lmu.edu/gethelp)
- Graduate Theological Studies research guide: [libguides.lmu.edu/gradtheology](http://libguides.lmu.edu/gradtheology)

## 2) Research Process

### A) General Steps<sup>1</sup>



### B) Take Notes on Your Search Process

Making brief notes about where you've looked for sources and how you searched for them can be helpful, especially if you get interrupted, do the work in a few different sessions, adjust your focus, or decide you need different or more sources once you start writing.

Example: Primary source analysis, Thomas of Cantimpré, *Life of Christina the Astonishing*

Where I searched	What I searched	Sources found
Library catalog	Cantimpre AND "Life of Christina the Astonishing"	<i>Excessive Saints</i> (book) <i>Three Women of Liege</i> (book)
	Cantimpre AND "Life of Christina"	<i>Thomas Cantimpre: The Collected Saints' Lives</i> (book)
ATLA database	Cantimpre AND "Life of Christina" (limited to book chapters and articles)	"The life of Christina Mirabilis: miracles and the construction of marginality" (chapter in e-book)

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Kate Turabian et al., *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations: Chicago Style for Students and Researchers*, 7<sup>th</sup> ed. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007).



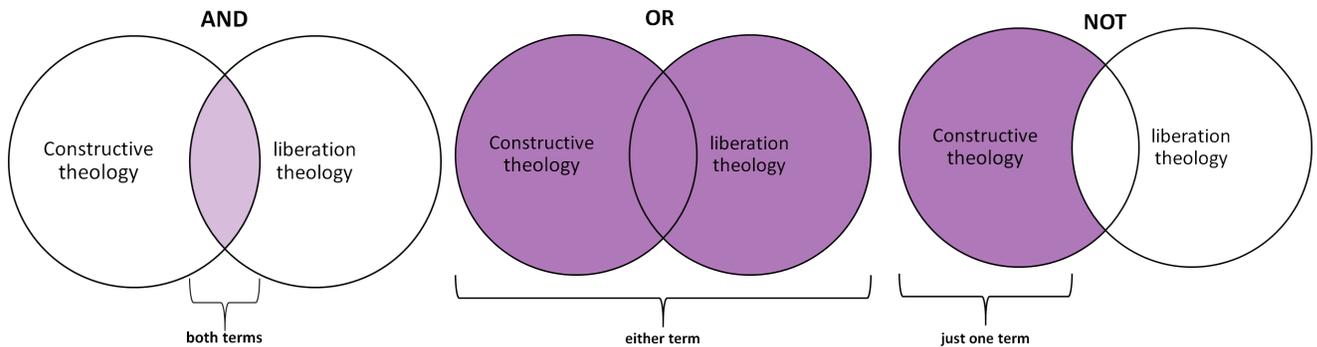
### 3) Search Engines vs. Library Research Databases vs. Library Catalog

#### A. Comparison

	<b>Search engine</b>	<b>Research database</b>	<b>Library catalog</b>
<b>Examples</b>	Google, Google Scholar, Bing, etc.	ATLA Religion Database, ProQuest Religion Database, JSTOR, etc.	LINUS, LMU's library catalog
<b>Scope</b>	Pages on the web (very wide net) crawled and indexed	Collection of digital documents or items and identifying information, limited by intentional selection/focus and by publisher agreements	Item records identifying all books, e-books, media items, journals, and databases in the library's collections
<b>How &amp; what it searches</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full text of many web pages, ranked by: where in page search terms occur, links with other pages, advertising relationships, etc.</li> <li>• Can't search within databases or sites that require a login or within certain collections of information based on the technology used to generate them</li> <li>• Relies on keyword searching and algorithmic guessing based on what others with similar searches access most</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some can search the full text of articles/e-books (ProQuest, OneSearch+, JSTOR)</li> <li>• Some only search item information in like author, title, subject terms, table of contents or summary (ATLA Religion)</li> <li>• Offers search limiters or filters like material type, subject, or date</li> <li>• Subject terms assigned to items (uniform language applied)</li> <li>• Accepts many different perimeters and operators (complex search statements with multiple search phrases).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific fields within item records only (including author, title, date, material type, location of item, subject terms, and sometimes a summary or table of contents)</li> <li>• Accepts some different perimeters and operators to make complex search statements (AND/OR/NOT, truncation, limiting by material type or date)</li> </ul>
<b>Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free to use/search</li> <li>• Doesn't provide access to content behind paywalls</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very limited free access, if any</li> <li>• Paid for by subscription, usually through university, library, or similar institution</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free to use/search</li> <li>• Points to physical materials in library or digital materials through library's electronic systems</li> </ul>

## B. Search Tips

1. Use keywords creatively and strategically.
  - Plain keyword searching works best if the terms you're using are relatively unique (don't show up in other, unrelated contexts).
  - Aim for 1-4 keywords or phrases per search.
  - Swap out keywords for their synonyms in different combinations as needed.
  - Use quotation marks to search for exact phrases
    - Example: "constructive theology" vs. constructive theology
  - Use truncation (\*) to account for different word endings
    - Example: ritual\* = ritual, rituals, ritualism, ritualize, ritualized
2. Be savvy about how you string your search together.
  - Use Boolean logic (AND, OR, NOT):



- Use parentheses ( ) to nest Boolean phrases
    - Example: "constructive theology" AND ("liberation theology" OR "womanist theology")
3. Controlled vocabulary / subject terms / thesauruses are your friends.
    - These can give you a better sense of what a book/article is actually about.
    - Books in LINUS, the library catalog:
      - Tagged with 1+ standardized Library of Congress Subject Heading
      - Added precision if you search or browse by subject headings
    - Research databases:
      - Each has its own versions of subject headings.
      - Pick through these to improve results or narrow a search.
  4. Read selectively while you search.
    - Get the gist of a work to better decide whether to download, read, and/or keep searching.
      - Read the item information/records (who wrote it? where is it published? when? what keyword are used to describe it?).
      - Read abstracts and skim introductions, conclusions, and section headings.

## 4) Recommended Sources (see LibGuide)

### A. Types of Sources

	Definition	Characteristics	Examples
Primary	Original documents created or experienced concurrently with the event being researched.	First hand observations, contemporary accounts of the event. Viewpoint of the time.	Interviews, news footage, data sets, original research, speeches, diaries, letters, creative works, photographs
Secondary	Works that analyze, assess, or interpret a historical event, an era, or a phenomenon. Generally uses primary sources.	Interpretation of information, usually written well after an event. Offers reviews or critiques.	Research studies, literary criticism, book reviews, biographies, textbooks
Tertiary	Sources that identify, locate, and synthesize primary AND secondary sources.	Reference works, collections of lists of primary and secondary sources, finding tools for sources.	Encyclopedias, bibliographies, dictionaries, manuals, textbooks, fact books

### B. Reference Sources (tertiary)

- Helpful if you're new to a topic or the scholarship in that area
- Goal is to get a feel for contours of the topic and major works, areas of general agreement and ongoing debate. Can also give you the terms to be able to search more effectively.
- Examples: *Cambridge Dictionary of Christian Theology*, Oxford Handbooks and Cambridge Companions\*

### C. Books/book Chapters (secondary)

- Commentary on and interpretation of primary sources
- Use library catalog to find these.

### D. Journals (secondary)

- Commentary on and interpretation of primary sources but with a narrower scope
- Use ATLA Religion Database and other (see LibGuide)

### E. Biblical Studies Reference Sources and Commentaries (see LibGuide and Handout 2)

## 5) Citation Tracing

### A. Glossary

**Ask a Librarian:** Contact the theology librarian or another librarian by chat, email, phone, or virtual meeting. See <https://library.lmu.edu/gethelp> for more information.

**Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad):** LMU's service for helping you get articles and book chapters electronically. To make a request, create an account at <https://lmu.illiad.oclc.org/illiad/logon.html>. (This is separate from your myLMU/email account, and you will need your library barcode number from your OneCard ID card.)

**Journal List:** Searchable list of every journal LMU has access to. Look for the Journals tab on the library's main page, <http://library.lmu.edu>.

**LINUS, the library catalog:** Includes information on all books and e-books the library has. Visit <https://linus.lmu.edu>.

## B. How Do I Find It? Citation Tracing Flow Chart

