

Getting Over Google: or, Not Everything Online is Tripe

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What we all want

- Students who can find, assess, understand, and cite research
- Focus on the intellectual aspects of research and writing, not the mechanical/rote
- Our library to have everything we need
- All accessible from our desk, bed, couch, etc.

What actually happens

- Students cite whatever they can find, appropriate or not
- Overemphasis on using a physical library, rather than making distinctions about online information
- Uncertainty about what an academic library is and does in 2009

Treasure hunts, but no treasure

- Both within and without libraries, many still convinced that touching bound books is necessary
- Find a journal, photocopy title page, record the citation in proper format
- Run around the building gathering arcana
- And for heaven's sake – no Internet resources

Collection realities

- K-State Libraries steadily eliminating print journals
- 20,000+ online journals, most not on our shelves
- End of print journals is in sight, perhaps another decade
- Best research may only be available online

The Web and the “Web”

- Wild Web dominated by commercial interests and general public
- Copyright law dictates that anything post-1923 is subject to limitation
- If it's online, free, and post-1923, be critical, unless ...
- Accessed via the library Website
- But telling them apart is hard!

Library Websites

- Sadly, apparently only the deranged and/or obedient actually start their research at a [library Website](#)
- Most start with [Google](#)
- Why might this be?
- What to do?

The Web is your friend

- Accept that research occurs mainly online
- Gear any library-related element of your classes toward using our online tools
- Model the behavior by using linked articles in K-State Online, etc.
- Be savvier than the students

Alas, they'll still use Google

- Inevitable and irreversible
- Two ways to deal with this

One:

- Judge their research by making the sources used part of the grade
- Who cares what path they took, as long as they ended up in the right place

Love your Google

- Get to know and love Google
- Step one: there are many Googles
 - Google Books
 - Google Scholar
 - Google News Archive
- Step two: know what Google can do, and what it can't

Google Books

- Millions of books available
- Copyright looms like a Damoclean sword over everything else
- Even if the book is not available in full text, still very useful as a search within the book tool
- From Google Books to K-State Libraries in four clicks

Google Scholar

- Millions of articles
- Indexed by machines, not people
- Library research [on the sly](#), thanks to Get It
- Get even fancier by using [LibX](#)

Google News Archive

- Announced very quietly, for Google
- Already a very useful tool for news searching
- Great because it puts a price tag on information
- Depending on the need, it may already be better than Lexis

What is a library in 2009?

- We license and purchase content
- We offer assurances that if you find something through us, thought has gone into its acquisition
- We link between content owned and/or provided by various companies and institutions
- We do still have books on shelves