



Madigan Library

HIS 250 Popular Culture in the United States

Pat Scott, Librarian

Instructor: Dr. Dan Doyle

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Bibliography Assignment

This assignment is designed to develop research skills and to prepare you for the Midterm and Final Essay assignments.

Identify a topic that relates to the history of popular culture in the United States. Your topic should relate to one of the following: advertising, detective fiction, or film. A focused topic is not a broad or general one. The topic should include the relationship of the topic to **one** of the following cultural and societal factors such as aesthetics, economics, ethnicity, ideology, gender, politics and/or social class.

Working Bibliography:

Focus: Advertising, Detective Fiction, or Film

Create a working bibliography (see below for format*) on the topic that includes the following. (A “working bibliography” is one that persons conducting research create at the beginning of any project. Such a list establishes whether there is sufficient information to undertake a particular project. The creation of the list does not require the actual review of materials. However, the use of available information from bibliographic search tools such as abstracts of articles contained in some databases should be considered.) The “bibliographic instruction” session in the library will further clarify the assignment as well as provide you with valuable insights and techniques for information searches.

Type:	Min. #:	Specifications:
Reference	2	Select reference sources most appropriate to your topic. Indicate the volume (if appropriate) and the pages along with the word(s) used as subject heading – indicate the last in parenthetical note at end of citation. Note: General encyclopedias including electronic sources are not acceptable.
Books	3	Use Penn College Madigan Library Catalog and/or other academic libraries . If you use another library, indicate the library in a parenthetical note at end of citation.
Scholarly periodical articles (recent)	5	Note the emphasis on scholarly – not popular sources. At least one each from three separate databases. A least one should be from an appropriate non-full text database found on the library's Search Database page. The JSTOR database also provides scholarly sources. Other sources include ProQuest (peer reviewed) as well as America: History and Life and Historical Abstracts from ABC Clío. The bibliographic annual edition of Technology and Culture is another good source—available on microfilm. Indicate the index and the keyword(s) used in a parenthetical note at end of citation.
Popular periodical sources (Note: contemporary to the time of your topic rather than current)	2	One newspaper article from the New York Times. (If you have selected film, then identify a film review.) One magazine article from some “popular” sources. Note: the time period associated with your particular topic may require adjustments to this part of the assignment. So consultation with the instructor for topics that are pre-1900 is advised. The Readers Guide to Periodical Literature and the New York Times Index (annual editions) are useful resources.
Websites	1	Websites should be other than library databases or periodical information. Sites already listed on History Links for this course are not acceptable. Provide the URL. Assessment of the level of scholarship should be provided in supporting notation. Indicate source/search engine used and keyword(s) in parenthetical notation at end of citation.

Note: the number of citations per type of bibliographic information and the specifications listed are general and minimum guidelines. The topic selected and the time period of invention and implementation may necessitate adjustments in requirements owing to scarcity of one or more types of information. Consult with the instructors for adjustments in requirements. However, an overall scarcity of information will necessitate changing the topic selected. Therefore, the earlier the bibliographic assignment is begun the more timely a group's work will be!

Potential Topics: (These are provided as suggestions. You are not limited to this list.)

For advertising: a specific product (car, cigarettes, soap) in advertising in a particular time period relating to one cultural or societal factor listed above

For film: a particular film genre in a particular time period relating to one cultural or societal factor listed above

Format:

Typed paper

Either APA or MLA formatting for Bibliography/Work Cited

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Using Print Indexes

Using Print Indexes to find articles: Find retrospective articles in The New York Times, Ladies Home Journal, Popular Science, etc. written during the time your topic was making news.

The red (or reddish-brown for older editions) New York Times print indexes are located in the bound periodicals section. The green Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature (1900 to present), which indexes Ladies Home Journal, Popular Science and other popular magazines can be found on the Index shelves near the Reference Desk.

Articles from the New York Times (1851 to present) are stored on microfilm in the gray steel cabinets in the rear of the library on the first floor. Articles in some magazines

indexed in Readers' Guide may also be found on microfilm. Be sure to check the library catalog to find out if the magazine you seek is one that we own.

Using Print Indexes to find reviews of films and books: To find film reviews, use the New York Times Index and look under the heading 'Moving Picture--Reviews.' In Readers' Guide, look under the heading 'Moving picture plays--Single works.'

To find book reviews in the New York Times Index, go to the heading 'Book -- Reviews.' Reviews are arranged by the last name of the author. Book reviews did not appear in the Readers' Guide until 1976. Our print version of Book Review Digest covers the period 1950-2001. Earlier volumes of the Digest can be found at the James V. Brown Library (1950 to present).

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Key Databases

[FirstSearch](#)

Select from among the following databases in the FirstSearch family. The more specialized databases of FirstSearch offer mostly scholarly research.

1. Use FirstSearch to find scholarly articles and then find out if ProQuest or JSTOR provide the full-text of that publication in the time period you need.
2. Ask the librarian how to perform targeted database searches to find articles in the periodicals the library owns. Use the following link to find [periodicals by curriculum](#). This may be helpful in finding articles related to your technology since the library owns many journals related to technologies.

The following are suggested FirstSearch databases to get you started.

[Arts & Humanities Search](#)

Indexes the world's leading arts and humanities journals, selected articles from social science and science journals. Includes articles, bibliographies, editorials, letters, reviews, and more.

[Literature Resource Center](#) For information on authors and their works [Search Tips](#)

[WorldCat](#) Not finding the books you need in our library? Use WorldCat to find out about books in other libraries.

ABC-CLIO Databases

[America: History and Life](#)

[Guide to searching this database \(PDF\)](#)

[Historical Abstracts](#)

[Guide to searching this database \(PDF\)](#)

[Periodicals indexed in these databases](#)

Full-Text Databases

[ProQuest](#)

Search all databases at once or search in one of the following that are relevant to technology and society topics. Remember to use Guided Search for more friendly and effective search options. Limit your search to film or book reviews by using the Guided Search method and limiting the Article Type to 'book review' or 'movie review.'

Also, a new feature has been added: check the box labeled peer-reviewed for (mostly) scholarly journals only.

[JSTOR](#)

A full-text database of scholarly periodicals (generally from the early 20th century to 1999) **Note:** You must first check the journals you wish to search!

Web Links

[Making of America](#)

A project of Cornell University, this site provides full text & image coverage of several 19th century periodicals. A good place to look for advertisements. Just do a keyword search and look for the articles labeled 'Advertisement.'

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