Exercises to Develop Essential Research Skills
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On the Campaign Trail @ Gardner-Harvey Library

You have decided to make a difference, to exercise your responsibilities as a citizen, and vote in the upcoming presidential election. Consequently, you make the decisive move to become an informed voter and put your research skills to work.

Go to the Gardner-Harvey Library Page: http://www.mid.muohio.edu/library

Use the Library Web site as your gateway to the information world of academic, authoritative electronic resources, digital media, and print sources whether on campus or from home, 24/7. Begin researching the candidates and the issues!

Finding Books
As a concerned voter, you wonder about Barack Obama’s experience and political priorities. Click on Miami University Catalog to search for books in all of the Miami University libraries.

Search Obama, Barack as a Keyword. Number of books listed?________________________
Now click Modify Search and limit where item is located to Middletown and run the search. How many books did you find this time?________

With the mouse, left click the link, Start Over. Search Obama as a Subject Heading. Number of books listed for “Obama, Barack”?_______

Look at the catalog record for The Audacity of Hope and complete the following questions:

Who is the author?_____________________________________
List the publisher and place of publication?_____________________
When was the book published?_____________________
See Subject Heading and list one to use in searching for more titles?_____________________
Indicate the **Location, Call Number, and Status** for the copy on the Oxford campus:

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Click on **Request Item** to place a hold on the title and have it delivered to the Middletown Library Circulation Desk. Besides indicating pickup location, what 2 pieces of information do you need to provide to request an item?

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Click **Start Over** and run a **Title** search on **Barack Obama in His Own Words**. Suppose the MU copy were checked out, but you were determined to borrow this book. Expand your search to **Statewide (OhioLINK)**. How many OhioLINK libraries own it?__________

Once you identify yourself as a Miami University student, what 2 pieces of information do you need to supply to have it shipped to Miami University Middletown?

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**Finding Periodical Articles**

Under **Find Articles**, click **Research by Subject**, then *Political Science*. How many Indexes and Databases could you search to find periodical, journal, and newspaper articles?______

Select **Academic Search Complete** and search Obama, Barack as a **Subject Term** and limit your search to **Full Text**. How many articles did you find?____________

Now **Narrow Results by Subject** to **2008**. How many articles are there?____________

Click on any article published in **The Economist**. Then click **E-mail** to send it to yourself using your Miami e-mail account or personal e-mail.

Now click the **Find-It!** button to format the article in APA style.

Note the Author, Article Title, Journal Title, Volume, Issue, Year, and Pages which are needed for your *Works Cited* page. (You might Highlight, Copy, and Paste the formatted journal citation into a word document to begin building a *Works Cited* page to document the sources you used in your research.)

How do HTML Full Text and PDF Full Test differ? (Bonus Points)

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**Finding eBooks**

There are a number of eBook Collections (**Oxford Reference Online, Gale Virtual Reference Collection, Safari Online Books, NetLibrary**, or **OhioLINK Electronic Book**
Center) which you may access from campus or home, 24/7 so that you always have access to digitized, complete electronic books. Often these eBooks are searchable, include guidance on how to cite them, include links to related Web sites, and provide easy email or print friendly version features.

Click on **Gale Virtual Reference Library** and search "elections, presidential" as a *Document Title*. Click on "Full-text with Graphics". Provide the year of the first Election mentioned________________________And the last Election mentioned_____________________

**Reserves**

Inspired by all the political speeches you have been listening to on the news, you decide to register for Communications 135. You too want to capture and hold the attention of listeners. Your professor mentioned there is a **Textbook on Reserve** for this class.

Click on **Textbook on Reserve** on the left. List the textbook available for COM 135

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**Digital Videos**

Your preferred learning style is visual! Your professor has told you **YouTube** is not acceptable, but you really want to show a video clip as part of your class presentation, so you check out **OhioLINK's Digital Media Center**. Click on **Multi-Subject Videos** then search *elections*.

What is the length of the Bill Moyers political advertising digital video?________________________

What are the two viewing options?_________________________________________________________________

**Search Engines & Web Site Evaluation**

You are becoming a savvy searcher and you usually start with Google. Run a search with Obama's name in the Title Field and limit results to Web sites with educational domains.

Intitle: site:.edu "phrase"

Intitle:obama    site:.edu "presidential election"

How many results did you find?____________________________________________________________________

Because you understand politics is all about spin, you need to be especially careful when evaluating information found on the internet. List 3 **criteria** should you keep in mind when you evaluate a Web site:

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