Sources for Research Material

1. **Books:** The simplest place to find books is CUNY+, the online catalog. Once you have found a book you want, make sure you note the call number. You can pick up a handout at the Newman Library reference desk which will tell you not only which floor you will find books with particular call numbers, but also the general locations of the books on that floor.

2. **Articles:** Try our online databases. They offer you literally millions of articles from thousands of journals and newspapers. For example, say you need an article from last year’s *New York Times*. If you go to the *New York Times*’ Web site, you will have to pay. If you use the Newman Library’s databases, you can get the same article and it costs you nothing. Just go to the Information Resources section of our Web site. To find which database includes articles from a specific journal or newspaper, use Full Text Journals. You can also check CUNY+ to see if we have the same journals in print.

3. **World Wide Web:** The Web has many useful sites, but be careful: it also has a great deal of misinformation, and sometimes it is difficult to tell one from the other. Just because someone has a Web site does not mean the information on it is true, or appropriate for college level research.

**Search Tips**

When searching the library’s catalog, CUNY+, as well as many of the online databases and Web search engines, you can combine words using the connectors AND, OR and NOT, or symbols with similar meanings.

- Use AND when you want to find material to which two or more terms apply. If you use *history AND united states*, for example, you will find material to which these terms apply, but not material to which only *history* or only *united states* applies.
- Use OR if you want to find material to which one or another term applies. If you use *history OR united states*, for example, you will get items to which either one or the other or both terms apply.
- Use NOT to exclude material. Say you want material on accounting fraud but want to exclude Enron, you might use *accounting fraud NOT Enron*.

Want to learn more? Sign up for one of our free workshops. You can find a schedule at “Workshops” on the Newman Library’s Web site.
Assessing Research Material

Name of Student:

Bibliographic Entry

1. Evidence

What kinds of evidence does the writer use?

Check one or more of the following:

- Statistics ___
- Case Studies ___
- Arguments from Experts (authority) ___
- Survey Results ___
- Documents (historical, etc.) ___
- Personal Observation ___
- Controlled Experiments ___
- Examples from a Text ___
- Philosophical Discussion ___
- Other (specify) ___

2. Reliability

Is it timely (written recently)?
If not, does it matter? Why?

If it is a periodical article, is it published in a scholarly, scientific or professional journal?

Can you find any information about the author?
Does the author(s) have a degree in the field in which s/he is writing?
If yes, please specify.

Is the author employed in a position that would give him/her knowledge about the topic on which s/he is writing?
If yes, please specify.

3. Relevance

Check one or more of the following:

- It provides examples that support or help to disprove the thesis I am examining. ____
- It provides arguments that support or help to disprove the thesis I am examining. ____
- It provides background information for my discussion. ____
- Other (Specify) ____