Introduction to Native Studies: updated September 2018: Newspaper Assignment

1. **BU Homepage**: https://www.brandonu.ca Find Student Resources –then John E. Robbins Library

2. **Brandon University Library Homepage**: https://www.brandonu.ca/library/

   Look for these 2 links on the left side: Library Guides and Databases

3. **Library Guides** http://libguides.brandonu.ca/?b=g&d=a Find Indigenous Resources -Background, Policy, Analysis http://libguides.brandonu.ca/indigenous

4. **Library Guides** http://libguides.brandonu.ca/az.php

   Find the All Database Types section. Click the arrow and find Newspapers and click it

5. **Newspaper Database List**: http://libguides.brandonu.ca/az.php?t=11586 Each database indexes newspaper articles. Some index other materials, too. Read the title and database description to see if it has what you want. No one database has everything or will be useful all the time. Today we are looking at 2 of these:

   **Canadian Major Dailies** indexes Canadian newspapers.

   **Canadian Reference Centre (Ebscohost)** indexes Canadian & other newspaper articles and journal articles.

   To connect to a database, click the database title, such as Canadian Major Dailies. If you are on-campus, it should connect. Off-campus? You may be asked for your username/ password. Enter the same password/user ID that you use to log onto a lab computer on campus.

   **Canadian Major Dailies: The Basics**

   - searches only newspapers
   - looks for all words you search in every record and article
   - try using Modify Search (top right) to shorten a results list
   - results are ordered by Relevance. To change, see the Sorted by option on the left side of the page.
   - many articles are full-text, meaning the articles may be read online. You also may print or email results. You must sign on separately to save them there.
   - look to the right of a long article record for Cite to see how an item may be cited for a bibliography.

   **Ebscohost: Canadian Reference Centre: The Basics**

   - searches newspapers and other materials. Do your search, then look for the limiter for Newspapers (Domestic) under Source Types on the left side of the results page.
   - looks for the words you search in every record and article
   - use Refine Results carefully to the left of result list to shorten a result list.
   - results are ordered by date. To change this click the arrow beside Date Newest (top of results).
   - many articles are full-text, meaning the articles may be read online. You also may print or email results. You need to sign in separately to save them there.
   - look to the right of a long article record for Cite to see how an item may be cited for a bibliography.

   **Search Hints**

   - If you are going to use the words Aboriginal, Native, Indigenous, First Nation or Indian, try the “5” noted in the Indigenous Resources LibGuide. (This search will NOT work on every database):

     (Aboriginal* OR Native* OR Indian* OR “First Nation*” OR Indigenous) AND……

   **OR**: means you want at least 1 of the words to be there –not all, just any.

   **Brackets**: (...) -collects the OR ‘d words. Use AND to connect search terms outside the brackets.

   **The asterisk /star** - searches all words that begin with those letters: aboriginal* searches aboriginal, aboriginals. Child* searches child, children, child’s, childhood, child-like, etc.
Double Quotation marks”” force the words to be searched as a phrase: “First Nation*” will be searched with those 2 words, beside each other, in that order. The * on the end of Nation will search Nation, Nations, Nation’s, Nationhood, and so on.

- Databases don’t ‘figure out’ what you want. What you ask for is what you will get. If you search for Aboriginal, it won’t guess you mean First Nation, too. And spelling counts.
- Don’t expect your first search to be perfect. Try a few searches & compare results. Try the limiters, but remember they may not always work as you would want or expect.
- A result usually has a citation. A citation is the information that identifies a source (such as a newspaper article) — the title of the article, any authors, the title of the newspaper, the date, the page, and so on.
- Some long records have abstracts. An abstract is a short summary of an article.
- Not all results will be useful. They just match your search terms. You will have to read articles to find out if they are useful. Don’t just look for your words in a title.
- If you don’t know much about your topic, do some background reading. If you need help locating information, ask for it. Newspaper articles don’t always provide a lot of background.
- Different newspapers may reprint a story. Make sure you are not collecting the same story from different newspapers. Read them and be sure. Check word counts — the ‘same’ story may be different.
- Information about Citing any given article may or may not be accurate — always check.

**Topics/Key Words**

A search for non-specific broad topics (*residential schools, child care*) will return lots of results. This may make it hard for you to find what you want. Be prepared to refine your topic (for example, adding words to your search, limiting the date) to a specific part of a larger issue.

Identify your key words. Start your search with those words.

Do not type your entire topic into a search — it’s hard to match all your words. Here’s a sample — followed by 4 searches that are each correct, but different, and will return different results.

*What was the Sixties Scoop? What effects did it have on the aboriginal family?*

**Key words:** sixties, scoop.

**Other words:** aboriginal, family, effects.

**Consider:** what if sixties is 60’s or 1960’s? Family or families? Aboriginal/native/first nation/indigenous/Indian? Other words for effects — problems, issues, etc.? What about adoption as a term?

**Unnecessary words:** what, was, the, did, it, have, on.

**Possible searches:**

1) "sixties scoop" OR "60's scoop" OR "60s scoop"
2) (Aboriginal* OR Native* OR Indian* OR "First Nation*" OR Indigenous) AND ("sixties scoop" OR "60's scoop" OR "60s scoop")
3) ("sixties scoop" OR "60's scoop" OR "60s scoop") AND famil*
4) (Aboriginal* OR Native* OR Indian* OR "First Nation*" OR Indigenous) AND ("sixties scoop" OR "60's scoop" OR "60s scoop") AND famil*

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