RESEARCH BOOTCAMP
Foundations I, Part I: Getting started

Lindsay McNiff, Learning & Instruction Librarian, Killam & Kellogg Libraries
Who’s here??

+ someone from Law, Grad studies, Bioethics
Reference & Research Services

• In person
  – Drop in or by appointment
• Online
  – Email the reference desk
  – Email your librarian
  – Use Live Help chat
  – Check out our Research Guides
• Phone
  – Call the reference desk OR
  – Call your librarian
Reference & Research Services

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Dunn Law Library: lawref@dal.ca
Kellogg Health Sciences Library: kellogg.library@dal.ca
Killam Library: Killam.Research@dal.ca
MacRae Library: macrae.library@dal.ca
Sexton Design & Tech Library: sexton.library@dal.ca
**Reference & Research Services**

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Dunn Law Library: 902-494-2124
Kellogg Health Sciences Library: 902-494-2482
Killam Library: 902-494-3611
MacRae Library: 902-893-6669
Sexton Design & Tech Library: 902-494-3965
In case you haven’t already: register your Dal card

• Once you have a Dal card, register it with the libraries right away!
• In person (activated immediately); online (activated within 24 – 48 hours): http://util.library.dal.ca/PatronRegistration/
• Your login will be your barcode and your password will be the last 4 digits of your phone number
Planning your research

• What is your research question?
• Where will you search for information?
• What search terms will you use?
• How will you limit your search?
• How will you keep track of your research?
The research question

- Manageable & searchable
- Clear & focused
- Substantial & original
- Relevant & interesting
- Subject to revision

Exercise:
- Write down your research topic (or one that interests you for future research)
- Pair up with someone you don’t know, and explain your research question.
The research sources

• Background info & seminal works
• Articles: databases
  – Subject-specific
  – Multidisciplinary, e.g.
• Web of Science
• Research Library
• Scopus
• Books: library catalogue
• Web sources

don’t go looking in all the wrong places
The research sources

Exercise:
• Write down a few places you might look for information on your topic
• Include at least one non-academic source that would apply to your topic
• Discuss with your partner

• Articles: databases
  – Subject-specific
  – Multidisciplinary, e.g.
• Web of Science
• Research Library
• Scopus
• Books: library catalogue
• Web sources
The search terms

Exercise:
• Break your research question into one, two, or three concepts
• Write down possible keywords for each concept

words, words, words

• Break your research question down into concepts
• Brainstorm keywords for the concepts
• String your keywords together with AND & OR
Your limits

- Decide what you’re looking for
- Decide what you’re NOT looking for

know them

Created by Luis Prado from the Noun Project
Record-keeping

- Keep track of
  - Databases searched and date
  - Search terms
  - Web sources
  - Citations
- Using RefWorks, Mendeley, Zotero, Endnote, etc.

you’ll be glad you did
That’s about it!

QUESTIONS?