

University of Idaho Library Instruction Finding and Evaluating Books from the UI Library

Name: _____

Date: _____ Class: English 102 Section: _____

Instructor: _____ Librarian: _____



Go to the library's web site at www.lib.uidaho.edu.

Part 1: Searching for books on a topic:

1. Write down your topic: _____
For help choosing or refining your topic, you might try:
 - a. Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center (available on the Find Articles page)
 - b. CQ Researcher (available on the Find Articles page)
2. Write down some search terms relevant to your topic. Think of synonyms.
3. From the UI Library Web site, search the "**UI Library Catalog.**"
4. Type two or three keywords (subject words) that describe your topic. Look through the list for a book that:
 - Appears to be **relevant** for your topic
 - Is in the **UI Library Main Stacks** (not only NIC, LCSC, UI Law, Special Collections or elsewhere) or is an **E-Book** (described as "electronic resource" and may have "Internet" before its call number)
 - Is **not checked out**
 - Has an appropriate publication date for your needs (the list of books can be sorted by date – newest first)

Part 2: Book citation and location information

Author _____

Title _____

City published _____ Publisher _____

Date published _____ Call number _____

If it is a printed book, what floor will this be found on? _____ and is it checked out? _____

U of I Library Locations: Call numbers A-G on 4th floor, H-Z on 3rd floor, Oversize: 3rd
US Government Documents Collection, online or on 1st floor
NIC: North Idaho College, Coeur d'Alene
LCSC: Lewis Clark State College, Lewiston
UI Law Library – Law School Building
Internet: E-book or website

Part 3: Subject classification

Look at the first letter of the call number for your book and then consult the blue handout called "Library of Congress Classification by Letters of selected subject area" or go to www.lib.uidaho.edu/instruction/l_of_c_class.htm

What broad subject area is this book grouped with? _____

Part 4: Look at and evaluate the book

- In the library or through the E-book link, locate or access the book you chose.
- Look at the book, using the table of contents and the index to find relevant portions.
- Fill out the evaluation chart below.

Does the book cover your topic well? Is there a section of interest? Or, is the focus of the book too broad, too narrow or not even really on your topic? Explain.	
Is the writing too technical or too difficult for your level of expertise with this topic? Or is it too simplistic or popular? Explain.	
Check the copyright date of the book. Is currency important for this topic? Is this book current enough?	
Would this book likely be a good source for a paper on your topic? Why or why not?	