Database Exploration Activity

Keeping your research topic of interest in mind, explore the three resources available through the Purdue Archives. Follow the prompts and answer the questions.

Section 1: Purdue e-Archives
Purdue e-Archives is the Purdue Archives' digital collections database.

Visit: https://earchives.lib.purdue.edu/

Collections (Home)
Locate one collection related to your topic of interest by navigating through the collections listed on the home page.

Answer the following questions using the data in e-Archives about your collection.

List the collection you chose

Who created/collected the collection (i.e., person/org name)?

What time period is the collection from?

Using the filters on the left-hand side of the database, answer the following:

What subjects are listed in this collection that you're interested in?

Name a few formats/genres (e.g., photograph, letter, etc.) present?

Are there any other creators listed?

From the collection you chose, use the search function or filters to locate specific documents related to your topic within your chosen collection. Your documents should include the following:

Items from two different decades. List the document and the decades

An item produced by a source that is not your person/organization (if available). List the document and the source.

At least two items related to your topic. List the documents and the topic.

Advance Search

Using the advanced search function, perform a search for records related to your topic. If your search returned more than 1,000 results, use an additional search term or filter to narrow your search.

Answer the following:

Did you need to try multiple search terms? What were they?

Did you use the advanced search fields only or the filters on the results page?

From your search results, find documents that include the following:

Two items related to your topic in two different formats. List the documents and formats.

Using two of the documents you selected, **do the following**:
1. Open each item
2. Conduct a keyword search within the record

Using the metadata fields, located underneath the image:

Cite the two documents you selected:

Audio/Video

Locate an audio or video recording.

List the item you chose

Open the record and **do the following**:
1. Find the transcript (if available)
2. Play the recording.

Section 2: Purdue Exponent

The Purdue Exponent is the Purdue student newspaper. It has been in operation since 1889.

Before starting, make sure you log in.

Visit: https://exponent.lib.purdue.edu/

Search

Navigate to the search tab. Click the Advanced Search icon , and **do the following**:
1. Conduct a basic search using terms related to your topic.
2. Conduct the same search but use synonyms or like terms in place of the terms you used.
3. Use boolean operated such as AND, OR, NOT; use "quotation marks" for exact phrases to make your search more specific
4. Are there any tags listed that will help you narrow your search? Click them.
5. Narrow your results by decade

Locate one article you're interest in and open it. Answer the following:

List the item you chose
When it is from?
Who wrote it?
What page of the newspaper issue is it on?
Cite it, clip it, and save it. Include citation below.

Dates

Navigate to the Date tab. Choose a newspaper issue by date that you think may have information related to your topic or that simply falls within the focus of this course (1940-2000).

Do the following:
1. Open it.
2. Look on the first page. Is there an article that continues on a following page? If yes, find the rest of the article.
3. Skim the issue

Find the following:

Why did you choose that date?
Find one article that interests you and read it. What are some terms you could use to find more related articles?
Find an advertisement that interests you. What did you learn from reading the advertisement?

Section 3: Primary Source Databases

Choose one database from the list of Archival, Historical, Primary databases offered through the Purdue libraries.

Visit: https://guides.lib.purdue.edu/az.php?t=14024

List the database you chose

Conduct a keyword search for your topic and locate three records of interest.

List the three records you chose.
What search features are available?

Conduct a keyword search for Purdue. If your search retrieved any results, list one you found interesting and why.
What is one thing that you can use this database for your research?

Section 4: Discuss

At 9:50, we're going to go into breakout rooms for 5-7 minutes. Discuss the following with the others in your breakout room:

- Discuss one item that you found interesting. Why was it interesting?
- What challenges did you encounter when searching in the databases?
- Which metadata fields did you find helpful?
- What was missing that you wish was included? Where else might you find this information?

At 10:00, we'll reconvene and talk about the discussion questions.