ENGAGING THE LIBERAL ARTS 100
Transitions 1

Emptiness, Nihilism, and Our Pursuit of Meaning

Hacker, Diana. A Writer's Reference. 7th ed. Boston : Bedford/St. Martin's, 2011.
    (hereafter listed as Hacker)

What is your assignment:
    Hacker: R1-b, pp.334-336
-   read assignment carefully! Is this a long paper, short review, research assignment?

Jot down search terms:
-   are there alternative terms, variant words or names, synonyms?
-   ex. Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche or Friederich Nietzsche or Fryderyk Nietzsche
-   ex. meaningless or nothing
-   ex. nihilism or nihilistic or nihilist
-   ex. Nihilism (Philosophy) (LCSH)
-   ex. Emptiness (Philosophy) (LCSH)
-   ex. Meaningless (Philosophy) (LCSH)

Background reading:
    Hacker: R1-f, pp. 345-346
    definition of a reference book: a book intended to be consulted for information on specific matters rather than read from beginning to end.
-   specialized encyclopedias concentrate on specific subjects and are an excellent starting point.
-   *Bonus tip*: these can also be used in your bibliography. General encyclopedias, such *Encyclopedia Americana* or *Encyclopaedia Britannica* should not be used.

-   print reference encyclopedias in Kelly Library OPAC:

    Encyclopedia of Literature REF PN 41 .M42 1995
    Encyclopedia of Philosophy REF B 51 .E53 2006
    Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences REF B 63. E53 2013
    Encyclopedia of Religion REF BL 31 .E46 2005

-   e-reference sources on Kelly Library's Journal Articles & Databases:

    Credo Reference (Hundreds of reference books in a broad range of subjects)
    Gale Virtual Reference Library (Database of encyclopedias, almanacs, and specialized reference sources for multidisciplinary research)
    Oxford Reference Online (provides language and subject reference works from one of the world's biggest reference publishers into a single cross-searchable resource)

Finding material in the library catalog (OPAC)
Hacker: R1-d, pp. 340-341
- the OPAC is a shared catalog for the Holston Associated Libraries (HAL), of which Emory & Henry College is a member. It lists the holdings for all of our books, DVDs, CDs, journals and newspapers, and electronic resources
- materials from other member libraries can be borrowed through the REQUEST function in the OPAC
- can be searched by author, title, subject and keyword.
- subject searching can be less useful since it requires the use of formalized terms
- keyword searching, which searches words within fields in bibliographic records, can return an overwhelming number of results, vague matches, or mismatches. Fine-tune keyword searching by adding more words or adding limits.
- can use * to include variations in endings in one search:
  appalach* will retrieve Appalachia, Appalachian, Appalachians
  environment* will retrieve environmental, environmentalism, environments

- books from our circulating collection

  Emptiness: a study in Religious Meaning / Frederick J. Streng BL 1416 .N33 S7
  The Cambridge Companion to Nietzsche / edited by Bernd Magnus. B 3317 .C29 1996
  The Concept of Meaninglessness / Edward Erwin B 825.2 .E7
  Meaning in Life: the Creation of Value / Irving Singer BD 431 .S578 1992
  Nihilism: Its Origin and Nature—with a Christian Answer / Helmut Thielicke B 828.3 .T513
  Philosophers of Nothingness: an Essay of the Kyoto School / James W. Heisig
  The Politics of Meaning: Restoring Hope and Possibility in an Age of Cynicism / Michael Lerner
  BD 431 .L384 996

Finding journal articles:
Hacker: R1-c, pp. 336-340
- search online journal databases in the Journal Articles & Databases list
- some are full text (Yeah!)
- some are indexed only, check E-Journal by Title to find out if an article is full text in a database the library subscribes to, or if print holdings are listed.

  Why search for journal articles?
  • journal articles are an excellent source of scholarly information
  • journal articles are reviewed by experts before publishing so are more reliable than most webpages
  • journal articles are more timely than books, especially in the sciences and may be the only place where some research is presented

  Scholarly vs. popular
  Hacker: R2-b, p.336
- scholarly articles (also known as refereed or peer-reviewed articles) are written by experts and go into more depth than material prepared for a general audience.
- Skidmore College's library website has a checklist to help you decide (http://libguides.skidmore.edu/content.php?pid=405243&sid=3316923)

  Scholarly journals: *The Journal of Philosophy, Journal of Religion, The Philosophical Review, Theology Today*
  Popular journals: *Christianity Today, Reason, The Humanist*

- *Research hint*: when you find an article that looks relevant check for subject headings or keywords that are applied to the citation. These can be used to focus your search for appropriate information.
- selected article databases from Journal Articles & Databases

> *Academic Search Complete* (full-text documents, indexing, and abstracts and more on topics ranging from astronomy to zoology)
> *JSTOR* (Online journal collection that contains the back file of journals from a variety of subject areas)
> *Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection* (Covers information concerning topics in emotional and behavioral characteristics, psychiatry & psychology, mental processes, anthropology, and observational and experimental methods)
> *Religion and Philosophy Collection* (Extensive coverage of such topics as world religions, major denominations, biblical studies, religious history, political philosophy, philosophy of language, moral philosophy and the history of philosophy through nearly 300 full text journals)

Using Interlibrary Loan (ILL) to borrow books and articles:
- the Library cannot possibly provide access to all the resources that students need
- fill in the online form available on the Library webpage to borrow materials from other libraries
- can take 5-10 days to receive requests so start researching early!

Finding good internet sites:
> Hacker: R2-b, pp.335-336
- most scholarly resources are not available for free, especially in the sciences
- scholarly resources cost money because they contain evaluated information
- there are no website police! Anyone can put up a website and make it look official
- learn how to evaluate websites Evaluating Websites on library webpage

quick check for evaluating web resources
- determine if the address is official or personal
- who is responsible for the content
- is the content personal opinion or documented research
- how current is the site, and when last updated

Google is a great search engine
> use advanced search to limit searches to particular domains to maximize chances of getting the most creditable information, i.e. .gov, .edu, .org
> http://www.google.com/advanced_search?hl=en

Google Books provides free access to full text images of books and some articles
> http://books.google.com/

Google Scholar searches specifically for scholarly literature in many formats, concentrating on articles and includes citation links (i.e. who cites whom)
> http://scholar.google.com/

- selected high-quality websites, subscription databases, and print resources are collected under Subject Resources on library webpage

> *American Psychological Association*   (The world's largest association of psychologists, with more than 134,000 researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants and students as its members.)
> *BBC - Religion and Ethics* (British Broadcasting Co. website with points of view from other parts of the world)
> *Cambridge Center for Behavior Studies* (A nonprofit organization that harnesses the expertise of hundreds of behavioral scientists to solve problems in the home, school, community, and the workplace.)
> *Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy* (founded in 1995 as a non-profit organization to provide open access to detailed, scholarly information on key topics and philosophers in all areas of philosophy)
> *Social Psychology Network* (one of the largest Internet sites devoted to psychological research and teaching.)

Documentation and Plagiarism:
> Hacker: R4, pp. 366-369

- know which documentation style you need to use
  - MLA (Modern Language Association) for English and some humanities
  - APA (American Psychological Association) for psychology and other social sciences
  - CMS (Chicago Manual of Style) for history and some humanities
- The library has print guides on reserve for all of them. The library's Research Tips page has links to several helpful sites. The Hacker website is especially helpful
- **Documenting sources correctly is critical to avoiding any appearance of plagiarism**   Hacker: R3, pp. 357-359
- Plagiarism is a serious academic offense
- The **E&H Academic Code** clearly states that it is a student's responsibility to give credit to another person's exact words or unique ideas.
- The **Honor Code** reinforces this concept with the statement that one of its elements is "A commitment to abstain from all forms of cheating and plagiarism."

  quick check for actions that might be seen as plagiarism (from OWL)
  - buying, stealing, or borrowing a paper
  - hiring someone to write your paper
  - using a source too closely when paraphrasing
  - building on someone's ideas without citation
  - copying from another source without citing (on purpose or by accident)

  things you don't need to document
  - your own opinion or analysis of an idea
  - facts that are common knowledge, available from multiple sources

Additional sources for research help:
- **Writing Center** in in MS 233, call x6225 for hours and contact numbers
  - cannot edit your papers, but can give advice about grammar, organization, or documentation

- **Kelly Library!**
  - open **92.5 hours** a week during the regular semester
  - a reference librarian is available until 9PM Sunday-Thursday, and all day Friday and Saturday
  - can reach us by calling the Circulation Desk at **ext. 6208**
  - email **askalibrarian@ehc.edu**

Circulation Staff	**Reference Librarians**
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Holly McCormick	Jane Caldwell (Asst. director)
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