

An Undergraduate Guide to Information Science Research Resources at UT-Austin

In October 2020, the School of Information (SI) at the University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) announced that it will offer two undergraduate degrees in informatics, a bachelor of arts and a bachelor of science, starting in fall 2021. The students in this program will be offered optional concentrations in areas such as social justice informatics and cultural heritage informatics. Some of these incoming students may find that starting their college career at a large and prestigious university can be extremely overwhelming. This could be particularly true for a first-generation college student or someone coming from a smaller community. Many experiences will be new and possibly intimidating; one of these is writing the potentially daunting research paper.

During their studies, these new undergraduate students will be expected to work with information on various topics and be knowledgeable about numerous types and sources of information. Luckily, there are several research aides and materials provided by UT-Austin to guide students in finding information. Unluckily, it can be difficult to find and use some of these resources if you are unfamiliar with them.

I created this pathfinder to help these students find various reference materials that will assist in their research process to complete the assignments in their courses. The scope of my project is focused on introducing students to the multitude of research options and ways of finding relevant information sources on the UT Libraries website. Through this pathfinder I will guide these undergraduates to accessing various online library materials including websites, bibliographic databases, journals, and articles.

These students might have questions such as: How do I search for articles on my topic within a specific journal? What is a high impact journal and why is it important? What are some of the best databases to consult? How do I properly cite these resource materials once I have found them? Is there an informatics-related database for me to search?

When selecting my sources, I chose to focus on databases and journals that appear on the relevant LibGuide and are therefore easily accessible to the students enrolled at UT-Austin. I selected sources that would likely be useful in the field of informatics based on the quality and scope of materials they could provide to the students. Additionally, when making these determinations, I searched each source using subject headings such as “information literacy” and “social justice informatics.” I then evaluated the sources based on the results that were produced, looking at the titles, the type of source, and publishing dates to name a few criteria.

I began locating sources to cover in my pathfinder by using the Library and Information Science Research Guide on the UT Libraries website (<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/LIS>). There are separate tabs on this page that focus on the different journals and databases, as well as citation tools that helped me design this pathfinder.

Annotated Bibliography

Style Manual

The Chicago Manual of Style. 16th ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2010.

UT Library Websites

1. "UT Libraries Home." University of Texas Libraries. The University of Texas at Austin, 2021.
<https://www.lib.utexas.edu/>.

This is the main screen for the university's large library system, which consists of 12 branches, houses millions of physical resources, and provides access to as many digital resources as well. The home page listed here includes a search bar in the center of the screen. This is the most readily accessible search point on the site and will likely be the starting point for the average researcher. From here, it is possible to begin searching for relevant material located within the UT Libraries and potentially further refine the parameters of the search on the next screen. It is easily accessed by simply typing 'UT Library' into an internet browser and that should provide the above link.

2. "Library & Information Science," 2020. <https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/LIS>.

The University of Texas Libraries publish many online research guides, including this one for library and information science. This guide has more than fifty resources for materials and links that could prove useful for any informatics researcher, including a list of databases, a list of high impact journals, and citation tools. These can aid at any stage of the research process from beginning to end. It is easily accessed through the UT Library website by clicking on the link that is on the home page entitled 'Research Guides' and scrolling down to locate the 'Library and Information Science' link.

3. "Journal Search." search.lib.utexas.edu, 2021.
https://search.lib.utexas.edu/discovery/jsearch?vid=01UTAU_INST%3ASEARCH.

If a specific, known journal is the goal, the UT Library website has a search page that is designed to assist in locating that journal. A more general search for journals on a particular subject may also be performed here. For instance, if an undergraduate student is focusing on social justice informatics, entering "social justice" as a search term populates a list of journals on that topic, including the *Journal of Education and Social Justice*. When doing more abstract research, it may prove helpful to use this page to browse for a journal that could in turn yield relevant articles. This webpage is quite easily found through its link on the home page of the library site.

4. "Citation Searching: Journal Impact Factors." LibGuides, October 5, 2020.
<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/citationsearching/impactfactors>.

Many of the sources listed both in this annotated bibliography and the following pathfinder are journals. This webpage, published by the UT Libraries, gives a quick tutorial regarding something called journal impact factors. Included in the second source listed here, there is a page listing several information science journals and ranking them according to their impact factors. Therefore, this page is helpful in learning more about how the journals are ranked and why. It can be accessed through the UT Library website within the aforementioned guide.

Databases

5. Emerald Insight. 1992 – present. <https://www-emerald-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/insight/>

Emerald Insight is the website for Emerald Publishing, a digitally based publishing company that is geared toward promoting the innovative research taking place worldwide. Their source materials are numerous, cover a wide range of topics, and include journals, case studies, and books. When using the browsing feature on the website, it is possible to narrow the listed books and journals to the more than forty that are associated with

library and information science. It is easily accessed through the UT Library's list of databases and could provide various materials to researchers.

6. Library and Information Science Source. 1900 – present. (EBSCO).

<http://web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/ehost/search/advanced?vid=0&sid=6bbb4396-a095-4b17-9ca8-30f4256f7164%40sessionmgr4006>

This database, as the name implies, was designed with information professionals and students in mind. Multiple publications are indexed, covering the past, present, and future thoughts concerning the field. This provides many possibilities for potential researchers to find useful materials among the more than 400 international information science periodicals. This database can be found on UT Library's exhaustive rolodex of databases as well.

7. JSTOR. 1994 – present. <https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/>

One of the more well-known databases, JSTOR is a large collection of strictly scholarly and academic journals that range across many disciplines. In addition to the ever-present general search feature that researchers can use to look up topics like information literacy, the website has an option to browse by subject. The Library Science page allows users to search within 13 specific journals such as *Information and Culture* and the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*. There are also thousands of articles pertaining to library and information science from many perspectives and covering many topics. Any UT student can access this database by logging in through the UT Library website's list of databases.

8. DOAJ: Directory of Open Access Journals. 2003 – present. <https://www.doaj.org/>

This database identifies itself as a directory for journals and their articles with a commitment to providing access to quality open-access information at no cost. There are several information science-related journals like the *International Journal of Information Science and Management* that are included on the website that can be searched. This would be useful for any student's research project because the entire website is open access and therefore does not require a university login. DOAJ can be found on the UT Library website's list of databases, or by searching through any internet browser.

9. Open Access Theses and Dissertations. 1971 – present. <https://oatd.org/>

Similar to DOAJ, this is a collection of graduate student publications from various universities and other institutions. This means the publications are more than likely to be academic in nature and provide access to content not published in some of the more well-known journals. These publications include things like "Improving academic literacy at higher education" and "The School Library as an Other Space: A Case Study into Literacy and Identity." This database is also open access and includes publications from around the world. Again like the DOAJ, it can be accessed through any internet browser, or the UT Library website's vast listing of databases.

Index

10. LISTA: Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts. 1960 – present. (EBSCO).

<http://web.b.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/ehost/search/advanced?vid=0&sid=188d0162-9b05-40db-bf32-e0b8a53f06b8%40pdc-v-sessmgr02>

LISTA indexes several hundred journals, books, and research reports related to the field of information science. The coverage goes back just over seventy years, and includes articles on subjects such as classification, bibliometrics, and online information retrieval to name a few. The searches relevant to informatic undergraduates

are practically endless and could be related to topics like health informatics or social informatics. LISTA can be accessed from the UT Library's website list of databases.

Encyclopedia

11. McDonald, John D., and Michael Levine-Clark, eds. 2017. *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*. Milton: CRC Press, 2017. <https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/books/encyclopedia-library-information-science-fourth-edition-john-mcdonald-michael-levine-clark/e/10.1081/E-ELIS4>

The most recent edition of this encyclopedia provides a vast amount of reference material relating to library and information science within its digital pages. It covers both recent and historical topics within the field, and many entries have been added or revised since the release of the previous edition. The array of entry topics is somewhat difficult to comprehend, encompassing everything from academic libraries to zoological park and aquarium libraries and archives. This resource can be found by typing its title into the search bar located on the UT Libraries home page and clicking the available link to access the full text.

Journals

12. *International Journal of Information Management* (1986 – present). Accessed March 6, 2021. <https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/journal/international-journal-of-information-management>.

This journal strives to provide its readers with the best and most current articles on information management. A widely discussed and vital aspect of informatics is how the information is managed, and the topics discussed include user privacy, data-driven innovation, and information systems analysis among many others. Being both international and peer-reviewed, this journal is sure to provide quality material for research being done in the field. Access to the journal is provided both through the journal search page of the UT Library website and the list of journals from the research guide detailed in source two of this document.

13. *Journal of Information Literacy* (2007 – present). Accessed March 6, 2021. <https://ojs.lboro.ac.uk/JIL/issue/archive>

The goal of this journal is to promote discussion of all types and stages of information literacy, from recognizing good information to using it. And it does so by publishing new and seasoned researchers alike. As literacy is a priority for any aspect of information science, the articles produced by this open access journal would undoubtedly be important likewise. On the journal's website users can browse the various publications by issue or use the offered search feature. Whether these articles are sought by the generally curious or the task-oriented researcher, their usefulness can hardly be questioned. The journal can be accessed either through the UT Library website or through the DOAJ database mentioned earlier.

14. *Information & Management* (1977 – present). Accessed March 6, 2021. <https://www-sciencedirect-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/journal/information-and-management>.

This journal is targeted at those doing research about information systems as well as those who create and use them. Information systems are complex organizational structures that acquire, synthesize, and dispense information. This publication creates a space for further learning and discourse about these ever-changing systems, as new breakthroughs and developments happen frequently. Those studying information science will

likely find something useful among these articles during their time at the university. This journal is easily accessed through the list provided in the library and information science libguide published by the UT Libraries.

15. *Journal of Information Technology* (1986 – present). Accessed March 6, 2021. <https://www-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/publication/30075?OpenUrlRefId=info:xri/sid:primo&accountid=7118>.

As indicated by the name of the journal, the articles here are going to be directed at the technological aspects of information science, such as the programming that goes into the systems. And as the world of digital information changes and evolves, those who work in or study the field must stay abreast of new theories and developments. This means that the articles found here will also be potentially excellent research material. It can be accessed through the UT Library most easily by searching its name on the library website.

16. *Journal of the Association for Information Systems* (2000 – present). Accessed March 6, 2021. <https://www-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/publication/26427?accountid=7118&OpenUrlRefId=info:xri/sid:primo>.

Like one of the previously listed journals, this one focuses on research articles about information systems and digital data management in real world applications or situations. Many of the recent articles focus on how information technology is influencing today's society. It is yet another resource that allows professionals and students alike to learn about advancements in the field and what their peers are working on. Researchers may find articles here that further their goals and assist in their projects. As with the other journals listed here, access is available through the UT Library website by searching the journals page.

Articles

17. Wagg, Sharon, and Pamela McKinney. "Information literacy outreach between universities and schools: a case study." *Journal of Information Literacy* Vol. 14, no. 2 (December 2020): 44–70. doi:10.11645/14.2.2692.

The case study in this article took place in the United Kingdom and examines the Information Literacy Outreach Programs that have been operating there. This is in response to the evident lack of said literacy in students beginning their higher education. It may be useful to examine the contents of the article or others like it. The article was found by searching the term "information literacy" in the search box of the journals page on the UT Library website, then using the provided link to the DOAJ database to access the journal. Then, from the journal's home page, "information literacy outreach" was used as the search term to produce this article, as well as others.

18. Baruchson-Arbib, Shifra. "The contribution of 'information science' to the social and ethical challenges of the information age." *Journal of Information, Communication and Ethics in Society*, Vol. 5 No. 2/3, (2007): pp. 53-58. <https://doi-org.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/10.1108/14779960710837560>

One of the big questions in this field is: what exactly is information science? This article attempts to answer this question by looking at it as a user-centered research field, and then analyzes the social and ethical challenges that are associated with it. This kind of article could prove to be a useful reading for students of informatics. Though it is a little outdated, it touches on many subjects that students are likely to come across in their studies and could serve as an introduction to them. This article was found in the Emerald Insight database accessed through the UT Library website.

Locating and Using Information Science Databases, Journals, and Articles Available Through UT Austin's University Libraries

A Pathfinder by Amanda Shumate

12 March 2021

All of the materials presented here are available to you and the incoming class of undergraduate informatics students. This pathfinder acts as a guide and gives you a starting point for your first college research assignments. Please note that most of these sources will require UT-Austin login credentials including your UTEID and password to access them.

I have received my first assignment to write a paper for one of my classes. Where do I start when I have no idea where to begin my search?

- "Library & Information Science," 2020. <https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/LIS>.

In some cases, your professor(s) will assign you a topic for your assignment. Sometimes it will be your choice and you will need to browse around for a topic that interests you. In either case, the UT Libraries website has a research guide for library and information science that contains many resources to get your research started. There is a list of journals related to the field that the library supplies access to, a list of databases, and other helpful links.

- McDonald, John D., and Michael Levine-Clark, eds. 2017. *Encyclopedia of Library and Information Sciences*. Milton: CRC Press, 2017. <https://www-taylorfrancis-com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/books/encyclopedia-library-information-science-fourth-edition-john-mcdonald-michael-levine-clark/e/10.1081/E-ELIS4>

If you are wanting background information about your topic, or you are looking for another resource to browse in search of a topic, this encyclopedia is a good source to use. Think of this as the library and information science version of Encyclopedia Britannica. It has information on numerous topics within the field, and each entry thoroughly covers the topic it is named for. The easiest way to access this source is by typing its title into the search bar located on the UT Libraries home page and clicking the available link to access the full text.

- "UT Libraries Home." University of Texas Libraries. The University of Texas at Austin, 2021. <https://www.lib.utexas.edu/>.

A good starting point for any search, this page allows users to type in any relevant terms into the search bar and find thousands, or hundreds of thousands of potential research materials. If you have difficulty in identifying the search terms you could use, contacting the professor, or one of the librarians would be a good option. Virtually every page of the UT Library website is equipped with an "Ask a Librarian" button for such occasions.

How do I limit my search for articles to a specific database?

- Library and Information Science Source. 1900 – present. (EBSCO). <http://web.a.ebscohost.com.ezproxy.lib.utexas.edu/ehost/search/advanced?vid=0&sid=6bbb4396-a095-4b17-9ca8-30f4256f7164%40sessionmgr4006>

This database contains many articles more specific to the field of information science and other related subjects. There are two easy ways to access it, and the basic principles will also apply to other databases provided by the UT Library system. The first way is to type the name of the database into the search bar located on the home screen of the UT Libraries website. The database will come up and once you click on it, there will be a link that takes you to the search page for the database. The second way is from the UT Library home screen, click on the link labeled 'databases' and then search or scroll to find the one you want and click on it.

How do I search for a specific journal?

- "Journal Search." search.lib.utexas.edu, 2021.
https://search.lib.utexas.edu/discovery/jsearch?vid=01UTAU_INST%3ASEARCH.

Located on the home page of the UT Library website is a link labeled 'Journals' that takes the user to a search page specifically for journals rather than individual articles. If you know the general subject or the name of the journal, this page is especially useful. For instance, if your professor references a certain journal in class, or you see it referenced in a reading assignment, and you want to find more material with similar qualities.

What is significant about a high impact journal?

- "Citation Searching: Journal Impact Factors." LibGuides, October 5, 2020.
<https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/citationsearching/impactfactors>.

Within the Information Science Research Guide is a list of journals ranked in order of their impact factor. This page explains in detail what those factors mean and how they are calculated, and it can be found by a link on the same page as the list of journals. These factors indicate how often a journal has been cited elsewhere in relation to how much material it published. This is worth noting because journals within the same field can be compared by looking at their impact factors.

How do I cite my research sources?

- "Library & Information Science," January 28, 2020. <https://guides.lib.utexas.edu/LIS>.

There are several styles of citation and it can be confusing. Different professors will ask you to use different styles, but the two most commonly used in library and information science are the American Psychological Association (APA) and Chicago. These have different of in-text and bibliographic citations. A good place to find materials that assist in citing is located within the research guide that is published by the UT Library system. On the left side of the screen will be a menu that includes a tab labeled 'Research, Write, & Cite' that users will need to click on.

It is my hope that you have found this pathfinder useful is doing research in the field of information science. Research can be challenging even for the most seasoned of academics. If you have any further questions or require any assistance, feel free to contact me at mandyhshumate@utexas.edu. The librarians at UT-Austin are available for help as well through the chat function on their website or in-person if possible. Or contact the subject librarian for library and information science, Meryl Brodsky at meryl.brodsky@austin.utexas.edu.