BIS 301 Disciplinary Maps Assignment – Library Research

Julie Tharp
BIS Librarian
jtharp@asu.edu
480-965-5168

Introductory Textbooks will help you with questions:
1) description of discipline
2) sub-fields
5) key concepts
6) current theories
7) key thinkers

Search the Libraries' catalog – do a keyword search using your discipline, plus
the word “introduction.” For example, “communication introduction” - determine
the general call number area, and browse the shelves.

Also try searching Google, for example “communication theories.” Be sure to use
only credible (.edu) websites.

Research Journals – this strategy will help you with questions:
3) research questions
4) research methods
8) academic journals
9) professional associations

- From Libraries’ Home Page, click Journal Title Lookup under Find Articles.
- Be sure to change the pulldown menu to “title contains all words!!”
- Type in your discipline, plus the word “research” to find journal titles. For
  example, “communication research” – this way you KNOW the articles in
  the journal will be research articles and will have methodologies (3 & 4).
- If there are no results, take out the word “research” and just search by
discipline.
- Select one or two journal titles – pick one that is available currently! For
  example, Human Communication Research, or Journal of Applied
  Communication Research.
- Look for links to information about the journal – mission, publisher, etc.
  This often leads to more information about: subfields (2),
  professional/academic associations (9), and nature and intended audience
  of journal (8).
  - Find out more about a journal or association using Google if
    necessary. For example, National Communication Association.
- Start looking at tables of contents in several issues of the journal to
determine research themes (3).
- Start looking at actual articles – Hint: look for link to PDF.
- Determine research questions and methods – Hint: look for section that
  says METHODS or METHODOLOGY (3 & 4).