

# THE ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER

at **Sam Houston**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

## Finding Sources

Try following these steps to track down useful sources. As you find sources, consider the issues covered in the Sam Houston Academic Success Center's handout Evaluating Sources. Most of the information found through the library and its databases should be authoritative and useable in an academic setting.

### Getting Started

The Newton Gresham Library (NGL) has a multitude of resources already in place to aid students in their research. The Academic Success Center encourages all students to take full advantage of every tool the Newton Gresham Library (NGL) offers.

In regards to finding articles and source material for essays, utilizing the NGL's search engines and database is most convenient.

### Searching

First: go to the library's homepage here: <http://library.shsu.edu>

The screenshot displays the Newton Gresham Library homepage. At the top, there is an orange header with the text "Newton Gresham Library". Below this, a navigation bar contains several tabs: "Engine Orange", "Books & Ebooks", "Articles & More", "Online Video", "Research Guides", and "Digital Collections". A red warning message states: "If you experience problems with your internet browser 'crashing' during an article search, please try an alternate browser (Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or similar)." The main search area features the "Engine Orange" logo, a search input field, and a "Search" button. Below the input field are radio buttons for "Keyword" (selected), "Title", and "Author". A note below the search area says "Find books, articles, films, and MORE in the catalog and selected databases." At the bottom left of the search area is a link for "Advanced Search", and at the bottom right is a link: "What is it, what does it search, and how do I use it?". On the right side of the page, there is a dark blue header for the "Library" menu, which includes dropdown options for "Help", "Research", "Writing & Citing", "Online Self-Service", "Services for...", "Collections", "SHSU-TWC Library Services", and "About Us".

One option: NGL's Engine Orange. Engine Orange will search the Library's catalog and holdings as well as a large number of databases across disciplines. The search will return books, e-books, articles, documents, films, CDs, etc. For a detailed explanation of all of Engine Orange's capabilities, visit: <http://shsulibraryguides.org/engineorange>

Another option is to search databases within a specific scope of content, such as History, English, or Forensic Science. To do this, click on the “Articles & More” tab, and select a subject area from the dropdown menu or the list below.

The resulting list will be databases that focus only on the desired subject. The list will also offer brief explanations of the contents in each database and provide a link to the respective search engine.

The screenshot shows the Newton Gresham Library website interface. At the top, there is an orange header with the library name. Below it are navigation tabs: Engine Orange, Books & Ebooks, Articles & More, Online Video, Research Guides, and Digital Collections. A red warning message states: "If you experience problems with your internet browser 'crashing' during an article search, please try an alternate browser (Mozilla Firefox, Google Chrome, or similar)." Below the warning, there are search options: "Popular Databases:" with a dropdown menu set to "Academic Search Complete" and a "Go" button, and a link for "All Databases A-Z". There is also a "Mobile Databases" link. A section titled "Databases By Subject:" lists various subjects in three columns: Agriculture, Art, Biography, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Communication, Computer Science, Criminal Justice/Legal, Current Events, Dance, Datasets, Ebooks, Economics, Education, English, Foreign Languages, Forensic Science, Geology/Geography, Government Documents, History, Kinesiology, Library Science, Mathematics, Music, Newspapers, Nursing & Health, Physics, Political Science, Psychology, Reference, Sociology, Theatre / Drama, and Videos / Films Online. At the bottom, there is a Google Scholar search box with a "Search" button and a link to "What is Google Scholar and how do I use it?". On the right side, there is a blue sidebar with a "Library" header and a list of menu items: Help, Research, Writing & Citing, Online Self-Service, Services for..., Collections, SHSU-TWC Library Services, and About Us. At the bottom of the sidebar, there is a link to "SHSU Records Retention Policy" and a row of social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, WordPress, and RSS.

Finally, students may also search using Google Scholar. Google Scholar is a broad, multidiscipline search engine that searches websites, libraries, universities, databases and more for scholarly literature. The search will return articles, theses, books, court opinions, abstracts, films, etc. It is recommended that you use Google Scholar while on campus or connected to the campus via remote access. When logged in via an internet connection on campus, Google Scholar will automatically show sources from databases you have access to as an SHSU student. For more on Google Scholar see:

<http://scholar.google.com/intl/en/scholar/about.html>

For more individualized assistance, go to the library yourself and talk with a reference librarian. The staff at the NGL are happy to help you with your research and can introduce you to many additional resources to locate print sources, such as WorldCat, or assist you with interlibrary loan for books the NGL does not have.