**Starting a General Search**

* From KU’s main page (ku.edu), hit the Libraries tab

[working search terms = **longboarding / longboards / skateboards / skaters / skate / youth / skating / boarding**]

* UDK was helpful for my skateboarding ethnography – I found an article from last March that talks about longboarders’ struggling with on campus restrictions, confirming my idea that this was an issue (Kuiper, Cody. “Longboarders struggle…” *UDK*, March 25, 14)
* Because “skateboarding” is the main theme around my topic (an ethnography of longboarders on campus), so I’m going to type “skateboarding” into the “search catalog” line – “skateboarding” is a more ***general*** term than “longboarding”
  + When you search with the “Search articles, the catalog, images, more…” line, you search everything in KU’s collection – books at Watson Library, special files and collections at Spencer & Anschutz, but also online material *&* material from partner institutions (which the KU can borrow for me)
* “skateboarding” gets over 5000 results – that’s too many… the Left toolbar of the search page gives me a few ways to refine this search… because I’m writing about young people I’ll add [AND “youth”] to my search phrase – “skateboarding” AND “youth”
  + remember to use Capital Letters for Booleian operators (AND/OR)
  + remember to put your search terms in “scare-quotes”
* “skateboarding” AND “youth” gets me 1300 hits – that’s easier to work with than 5k, but not by much…
  + but if I add “…culture” to the string – [“skateboarding” AND “youth culture”] I come up with 122 results – I can work with that number!
* when you have your keywords narrowed down to a string that brings up a manageable number of hits, it’s a good idea to take a look at what *kinds* of sources are out there…
  + I already have one newspaper article for my Works Cited page (the *UDK*, above), so I probably need to find another type of source … books, journal articles…

**Refining my search-terms & navigating the results**

* Pressing the “format” button on the left side brings me to a “refine search” window… I want to include the journal articles – but not those from newspapes; I think the “dissertations” will take too long to read, but flipping through a ‘book” might be helpful, so I’ll include the 1 book that the library has… also, a “video/visual” might be worthwhile – maybe its that skateboarding documentary I’ve heard about. I’ll exclude the “reviews” and the “conference” too – this paper doesn’t have to be too long.
* So! Looks like the catalog found a book that relates to my project – *Youth Culture and Sport: identity, power, and politics*… this might be useful – it sounds similar to some of the stuff from that Hebdige article
* At this point I better “sign in” to the library page – I’ve found some good resources, and can start adding them to my “bookbag” for this project… & it’ll probably help with my Works Cited page – I’ll find the book later, but at least I know its here…
* Also, this “Dogtown” documentary looks promising – it’ll be fun to watch, even if I don’t use it in the project… I’m glad Watson has so much media…
* As I scroll through the remaining articles, I need to think about how the titles may relate to my project… I probably shouldn’t use everything! (my paper’s only 5-7 pages!) but I need to make sure I have ***relevant*** sources – not just random BS…
  + the “gender” article looks interesting, but it’s not really what I want to talk about with this project… I wanted to write about something more general
  + but the “funhouse” article and the “teenaphobia” articles look useful – the first mentions “youth culture and commodification” in the title and my teacher’s always going on about that, so… let’s look at it // also the title of the “teenaphobia” article mentions “the need for skateparks” in the headlines – I bet that author is sympathetic to skateboarders (and probably on campuses too)
* the next page of hits looks interesting, but nothing as specificic for my project as what I’ve already got… maybe I’ll look at the sources I’ve marked, and if they don’t work out I’ll try again…
* before I’m done, I’ll try the “ProQuest Research Library” tab – the instructor mentioned that some “Article Databases” will organize things differently than KU’s servers… because of this, I might get different results than the four or five pieces I already had…
  + Hitting the “ProQuest” tab narrowed things down, but the articles loo familiar – but the search engine is prompting me to try a new search phrase [skateboarding and culture] with no Booleain operators – I’m curious, so let’s try it…
  + Boom! There’s still 1300 hits, but one at the top looks ideal: “Grinding California” talks about culture and skate punk – this might be useful to talk about longboarding, *and* the library has a copy
  + Now I’ve got 2 books, 2 journal articles, a documentary, and a newspaper article to look through – I can’t read all this stuff before my project’s due… but I bet I can make it through the books’ “introductions” – and at least skim the articles…
  + If I click on the e-shelf tab in the top right corner, I can see what I’ve got collected…

**Downloading Articles & Finding Books from the Stacks**

* I have 5 items in my basket – I’ll download the articles first, and then go find the books…
  + If I have enough of a head-start on a project, I can request library staff to pull the books and the DVD for me … but that usually takes a day or two – I’ll see if I can find the books myself, and the front desk will grab the movie … but first, the articles…
* the first article in my list is the one about Skate Parks
  + – the “Details” tab, below my e-shelf, has a Description of the article (sometimes called an “Abstract”) – this synopsis *seems* like the article might be useful for my project, but it says that it talks about youth culture in *Australia* – lets see if the other article works with American skateboarders (I’m writing about Kansas, not Australia, and the youth culture might be different there…
  + The article about “marketing” and youth culture looks more promising, even though its from 1999 – surely some of it is still relevant though!
* Now, I want to read this article
  + I’ll click the “view online” tab and see if I can track down a pdf
  + When I click the “view online” tab, I see a link to the article routed through KU’s server…
  + Hey, cool… the article’s only 4 pages long, but that’s okay… I’ll read through it, and see if it fits with what I want to say in my essay – maybe it will give me some new insights…
  + If I’m not thrilled with the content, I can always look at the other article – and I still have those books to track down and a movie to watch…
* I’ll read the articles tonight, and request the books and movie – I can pick them up tomorrow after my Bio quiz
  + When I click on the book title on the e-shelf, under the Details tab all the book’s info will appear… but the Links on the right side seem really useful, especially “This item in KU Libraries Catalog”
    - If I click that, a new window appears – the book’s KU library profile…
    - When I scroll down, I’ll see both the call number ([GV706.5 .Y57 2008](http://catalog.lib.ku.edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?SC=CallNumber&SEQ=20150309095050&PID=GvAKFAqZPLsRhsi5if4IPhFlNCaZ&SA=GV706.5+.Y57+2008)\_) *and*  the shelving location (2 Center Stacks)… I can either go find the book in person, or request online for a staff member to find it for me (probably a good idea if I’m looking for a lot of books! My time is valuable!)
    - I’ll click “Recalls and Requests”
      * Select “retrieve from shelf” (If someone else has it checked out, I can “recall” it – they’ll get an e-mail to let them know someone else needs the book)
      * The library wants to know where I want to pick the book up! Cool! Even though the book “lives” at Watson, I can still snag it at Anschutz after math! Great! Saves me a trip! (or Watson, because I plan on studying there tomorrow anyway)
      * I’ll hit “submit request” and go read the articles…
  + If I decide to snag the book myself, I can grab a map of the stacks from the circulation desk… I better write down that call number carefully too – most academic library call numbers are between 7 & 12 characters – I need to be precise!