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STS 101

Library Session

Spring 2007

# Framing a Research Question

Most of the papers you will write as a student at UVA—and many of the reports and documents you will produce for employers and others once you graduate—will need to go far beyond a simple retelling of facts and figures. It's not enough to use the "Summer Vacation Report" style of writing: I came, I saw, I bought souvenirs, I went home. Instead, you need to look at your question from various angles, analyze the relationships among its parts, document your points with reliable, verified facts and figures, illustrate key parts with appropriate graphics, and try to get at some of the reasons behind the facts.

One way you could conduct this process might be to use a "Journalistic" approach. For each aspect of your topic ask yourself those tried-and-true questions that all good journalists learn early in their careers: who, what, when, where, how and why? Here's an example. The suggested questions are certainly not all that could be asked—the specific questions you ask will vary with your topic. And not all the categories shown may be appropriate for a given paper, or some categories may require more emphasis than others for a given paper. Much depends on the needs/requirements of your instructor or other person for whom you are writing and on the type of presentation and the thesis you are trying to prove or disprove. In the end YOU must use your own best judgment and analytical skills in determining how best to research and organize your paper and what questions best get at the points you are trying to make in it.

**TOPIC:** The invention and use of the pop-top aluminum can.

**THESIS:** The introduction of the pop-top aluminum can changed the beer and soft drink consumption habits of consumers, affected consumer health and safety, altered the nature of the container industry (especially for beverages) and affected the quality of the environment in various ways.

**WHO:**

- Who invented the pop-top can?
- What company or companies did they work for? Did those companies have any vested or hidden interests in developing the pop-top can?

**WHAT:**

- What led can manufacturers to go from steel or glass to aluminum? What economic factors may've influenced the decision to switch? What social factors?
- What was the effect on the food/beverage industry of the pop-top can? Did production of beer and soft drinks rise or fall as a result? What statistical sources support or illustrate these trends? Were any of the changes due to something other than a change in packaging (e.g. rise or fall in population or changes in population demographics)? What statistical sources support or refute these data?
- What was the effect of the pop-top can on consumer behavior?
- What effect did the aluminum pop-top can have on materials recycling? On the environment? On social behavior? On marketing and advertising?

**WHEN:**

- When was the pop-top aluminum can invented/patented? Why then as opposed to any other particular time? What was happening in related industries (food service, leisure and tourism, transportation) that may've influenced when pop-top cans were introduced? How?
- When was the pop-top aluminum can first introduced, as opposed to being invented and/or patented? Was there a delay between invention and first use? If so, why? And what eventually tipped the balance?
- When was aluminum first used as a container in any form? Why then and not earlier or later? What social or economic factors influenced the use of aluminum as a packaging material? How did consumers react to aluminum as a packaging material? Why?
- When was the attached pop-top introduced, as opposed to the detachable top? Why?

**WHERE:**

- Where around the world is the pop-top can used? Are there places it's used more extensively than other places? Why? Are there cultural or economic reasons for the differences in use?
- Where does America get most of its aluminum (or the bauxite ore from which it's made)? What effect does this have on aluminum can manufacture?

**HOW:**

- How did the introduction of the pop-top can change the behavior of consumers (if it did)?
- How are the cans manufactured? What effects does this process have on society (if any)? [HINTS: electricity consumption, water consumption, environmental concerns, health and safety concerns, economic concerns, etc.]

**WHY:**

- Why should we be concerned about the proliferation of pop-top cans? Or should we be?
- Why did consumers readily adopt the use of pop-top cans?
- Why isn't aluminum currently used for all kinds of cans?
- Why should we worry (or should we) about the supply of bauxite and/or aluminum production?
- Why should we be concerned (or should we be) about workers in all facets of the aluminum industry?
- Why should we be concerned (or should we be) about aluminum in our food and water supplies? Does the prevalence of aluminum cans affect these concerns? How?

# DATABASES

Link to databases from <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/databases/>  
 Visit Refworks at <http://www.refworks.com>

Subject	Database	Database Description	Downloading Citations to RefWorks
<b>Business/Economics</b>	<i>Business Index ASAP</i> 1980-present	Lists articles from business, finance, management and industry periodicals, many with abstracts and full text.	Somewhat complicated, please contact the Information Desk at Brown SEL
	<i>EconLit</i> 1969-present	International coverage of economics in journal articles, books, dissertations, book reviews	check boxes to select citations, click on <i>RefWorks</i> link, <i>Export to RefWorks</i>
<b>Education</b>	<i>Education Full Text</i> 1983-present	Search for articles from over 500 English-language periodicals and yearbooks about all aspects of education. Includes abstracts of articles published after 1984. This version adds the full text of articles from recent years of over 300 journals. Indexing includes book reviews. See <a href="#">Education Index Retro</a> for coverage 1929-1983.	Select citations, click on <i>Exporting/Citing</i> button, choose <i>Export to RefWorks</i> , <i>EndNote software</i> , make sure <i>RefWorks' Direct Export Tool</i> is selected, then <i>Export</i>
	<i>ERIC</i> 1966-present	This database provides citations and abstracts for education-related journal and magazine articles. It also provides full text access to "unpublished" items such as conference papers, technical reports, some doctoral dissertations, monographs, government reports, and more from 1993-present. Citations only are provided for the "unpublished" items from 1966-1992, however, the full text is available in the ERIC microfiche collection in the UVA Education Library.	Check boxes to select citations, click on <i>RefWorks</i> link, <i>Export to RefWorks</i>

Link to databases from <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/databases/databasesA-Z.html#>  
 Visit Refworks at <http://www.refworks.com>

Subject	Database	Database Description	Downloading Citations to RefWorks
<b>Environment</b>	<i>CSA Illumina</i>	Select <i>Environmental Sciences and Pollution Mgt</i> from the list: This multidisciplinary database, provides unparalleled and comprehensive coverage of the environmental sciences. Abstracts and citations are drawn from over 6000 serials including scientific journals, conference proceedings, reports, monographs, books and government publications.	check boxes to select citations, click on <i>RefWorks</i> link, <i>Export to RefWorks</i>
<b>Government</b>	<i>Explore the government links on the Library's Government Information Resources page</i> <a href="http://www.lib.virginia.edu/govdocs/">http://www.lib.virginia.edu/govdocs/</a>	For in-dept research assistance in locating government publications, contact the staff of Government Information Resources (GIR) located on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> floor of Alderman Library (phone: 434.924.3516, govdocs@virginia.edu).	will most likely require manual entry
<b>Health/Medicine</b>	<i>Medline 1966-present</i>	All aspects of biomedicine and allied health fields plus biological and physical sciences and humanities and information science as they relate to medicine and health care.	for Medline (OVID), select citations using check boxes, go to bottom of page and choose <i>Direct Export</i> then <i>Save, Export Results to RefWorks</i> , click on <i>Continue</i> button
<b>History</b>	<i>America: History &amp; Life 1964-present</i>	Covers the history of the United States and Canada from prehistory to present with records from 2,000 English-language journals published worldwide. Includes book reviews.	select articles by checking the <i>Tagged</i> box, select <i>Export Options</i> , select <i>RefWorks</i> , and <i>Export Records</i>
	<i>Historical Abstracts 1954-present</i>	Indexes articles written on the history of the world from 1450 to the present, covering articles published in over 2,000 journals published throughout the world. Includes book reviews. Does not include articles about the US or Canada.	select articles by checking the <i>Tagged</i> box, select <i>Export Options</i> , select <i>RefWorks</i> , and <i>Export Records</i>

Link to databases from <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/databases/databasesA-Z.html#>  
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Subject	Database	Database Description	Downloading Citations to RefWorks
Interdisciplinary	<i>Academic OneFile</i>	Large general database of articles from scholarly journals and a few newspapers (NY Times, 1995-) covering a wide range of topics. Millions of full-text articles, many with images.	<i>Mark</i> items, click on <i>Marked Items</i> folder at top of page, go to <i>How to Cite Marked Items</i> , select <i>RefWorks</i> and <i>Export</i>
	<i>Alternative Press Index and Archive 1991-present</i>	Indexes alternative, radical and left newspapers and magazines covering cultural, economic, political and social change. Most are from the US, but some other countries are covered. The <a href="#">Alternative Press Index Archive</a> extends coverage to 1969-1990.	Select citations, click on <i>Export</i> button, choose <i>RefWorks</i> and <i>Export</i>
	<i>CQ Researcher 1991-present</i>	In depth reports on selected issues in the news with lists of recommended books and articles.	Within selected article, go to <i>CiteNow!</i> , select <i>RefWorks</i> from the drop-down menu in the <i>Export Citation to:</i> box
	<i>Ethnic NewsWatch 1985-present</i>	Full-text of newspaper, magazine, and journal articles from 200 ethnic, minority, and native publications in the U.S., in English and in Spanish.	Select citations, click on <i>Export</i> link, <i>Export Directly to Refworks</i>
	<i>WorldCat</i>	Online catalog of books and other materials in thousands of libraries worldwide.	Select citations, click on <i>Export</i> button, choose <i>RefWorks</i> and <i>Export</i>
	<i>JSTOR</i>	Full-text backfiles of many important scholarly journals. Coverage is usually from the first issue to 3-5 years before the present.	Select <i>Save Citation</i> , go to <i>View Saved Citations</i> , then click on <i>Directly export citations into RefWorks</i>
	<i>PAIS International</i>	International database covering public and social policy. Includes journal articles, books, government documents, statistics, and reports from organizations and abstracts from 1985.	Check boxes, click on <i>RefWorks</i> link, <i>Export to RefWorks</i>

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<b>Subject</b>	<b>Database</b>	<b>Database Description</b>	<b>Downloading Citations to RefWorks</b>
	<i>Periodicals Index Online</i>	Search for articles and book reviews in over 4000 international humanities and social sciences journals published from 1770 to the 1990s.	<i>Mark citations, choose Marked List, click on Download Selected Citations, then Export directly to RefWorks</i>
	<i>Web of Science 1981-present</i>	Lists articles from over 5,700 science and engineering journals, 1,700 social sciences journals, and 1,100 arts and humanities journals. Frequent updates make it a good source for very recent information.	Somewhat complicated, please contact the Information Desk at Brown SEL
<b>Law</b>	<i>Index to Legal Periodicals Full Text 1985-present</i>	Lists articles from English-language legal periodicals from 1982-present and has full text for some 200 articles, mostly beginning in the mid 90s.	select citations, click on <i>Exporting/Citing</i> button, choose <i>Export to RefWorks, EndNote software</i> , make sure <i>RefWorks' Direct Export Tool</i> is selected, then <i>Export</i>
	<i>Index to Legal Periodicals Retro 1918-1981</i>	Indexes over 750 legal periodicals published in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand. Annual surveys of the laws of a jurisdiction, annual surveys of the federal courts, yearbooks, annual institutes, and annual reviews of the work in a given field or on a given topic will also be covered.	Select citations, click on <i>Exporting/Citing</i> button, choose <i>Export to RefWorks, EndNote software</i> , make sure <i>RefWorks' Direct Export Tool</i> is selected, then <i>Export</i>
<b>News</b>	<i>Factiva</i>	Company and business information from Dow Jones; articles from over 6,000 newspapers and periodicals plus news photographs. Select "News pages" to browse daily issues of recent newspapers from many countries; use "Search" to find older articles. Logout at the end of a session to avoid problems connecting the next time.	Citation information must be entered manually, please contact the Information Desk at Brown SEL for details

Link to databases from <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/databases/databasesA-Z.html#>  
 Visit Refworks at <http://www.refworks.com>

Subject	Database	Database Description	Downloading Citations to RefWorks
	<i>Lexis-Nexis</i>	News and business information from sources around the world; book reviews, biographical, and other reference sources; U.S. Code, constitution, and court cases. Includes many newspapers. Most entries are full-text, some updated daily.	citation information must be entered manually, please contact the Information Desk at Brown SEL for details
	<i>Proquest Historical Newspapers</i>	Search and see full text of articles from the <i>New York Times</i> (1851-2001), the <i>Wall Street Journal</i> (1889-1997), the <i>Chicago Tribune</i> (1890-1984) and the <i>Washington Post</i> (1877-1987). For more recent issues, use <a href="#">Factiva</a> .	select citations, click on <i>Export</i> link, <i>Export Directly to Refworks</i>
<b>Religion</b>	<i>ATLA Religion Database</i>	Lists articles on all aspects of religious studies from journals in many disciplines. Includes citations to book chapters and to book reviews.	<i>Add citations, click on Folder icon, choose Save option, select Bibliographic Manager tab, Direct Export to RefWorks</i>
<b>Social Sciences</b>	<i>CSA Illumina</i>	In the top blue bar select <i>Change Subject Area: Social Sciences</i> includes ASSIA: Applied Social Sciences Index and Abstracts, Sage Psychology Full-text, Eric, Sociological Abstracts, etc. Searches the international literature in sociology and related disciplines in the social and behavioral sciences	<i>Add citations, click on Folder icon, choose Save option, select Bibliographic Manager tab, Direct Export to RefWorks</i>
	<i>PsycInfo 1887-present</i>	Covers journal articles in more than 30 languages and books in English about psychology and related disciplines including medicine, psychiatry, nursing, sociology, education.	check boxes, click on <i>RefWorks</i> link, <i>Export to RefWorks</i>
	<i>Web of Science, Social Sciences Index 1981-present</i>	Lists articles from over 5,700 science and engineering journals, 1,700 social sciences journals, and 1,100 arts and humanities journals.	somewhat complicated, please contact the Information Desk at Brown SEL

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- \*Book reviews — article that summarizes and discusses the quality of a book. Could point you to a good book on your topic
- \*Review articles — an article that assesses the research on a subject. This can be a **great place** to start on a paper, because it gives an overview on a subject and leads to other citations for your paper
- \*Book chapters — much like the scholarly article, but published in a book rather than a journal
- \*Dissertations — the very long, final paper of someone receiving their Ph.D
- \*Conference proceedings — written versions of papers delivered at professional meetings.

**Language:** Not all scholarly works are written in English, but the abstracts and records in the databases frequently are, which can be misleading. Check this field and make sure you can read the article before you get it.

**Period:** Found mostly in History databases, the Period field tells you during which dates the article covers its main topic — NOT when it was published.

**Author:** Usually one or more persons but sometimes an organization, e.g. Ford Motor Company

**Title:** This is the title of the article, within the journal. Don't try to use this in Virgo to find the article.

**Citation:** Contains the information you need to locate the article, electronically or in print. For example, you would want to locate pages 76-82 in volume 50, issue 2 of American Heritage.

The screenshot shows a library record for an article. At the top right, it says "7 of 25". Below that is a "Tagged" checkbox. The record details are as follows:

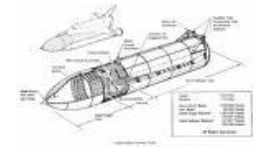
- Type:** Article
- Author:** Ierley, Merritt.
- Title:** THE BATHROOM: AN EPIC.
- Citation:** American Heritage 1999 50(3): 76-82, 84. ISSN: 0002-8738
- Resource:** [ Find@UVA Find this @ UVA Libraries ]
- Abstract:** Presents a brief history of the development of the bathroom in American homes. Bathtubs began to appear in homes in the early 19th century, often coinciding with the introduction of piped-in water systems. Increased knowledge of diseases led to increased emphasis on washing and bathing. Although toilets, long termed water closets, appeared as early as 1760, widespread acceptance was slowed by cost and customs until convenience became paramount in the 20th century.
- Abstracter:** J. F. Paul
- Language:** English
- Period:** ca 1760-1990's.
- Subject:** (click a term to run a new search)
  - > Social Customs.
  - > Sanitation.
  - > Bathrooms.
- Entry:** 37:4082
- Database:** AHL

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**Find@Uva button:** When you click on this, it does a search against the list of all the electronic journals Uva owns and takes you directly to the article when possible. Sometimes you may need to find the volume, issue and page number, though, so don't forget those numbers. If it can't find an electronic copy, you can search Virgo by just following a link on that results page.

**Abstract:** A brief summary of the article. Probably most helpful for deciding whether or not the article is useful. Often doesn't appear unless you expand your record, or choose details.

**Subjects:** These words are added by professionals reading the articles and writing the abstracts. Following these terms can lead you to more articles of interest. They may also suggest more specific or more general terms to try.



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**ARTstor** - A repository of hundreds of thousands of digital images and related data along with the tools to actively use those images. (<http://www.artstor.org/info/>) ON-GROUND OR PROXY SERVER ACCESS REQUIRED

**Associated Press Photo Archive** - Contains 400,000 images, most of which are contemporary photos made since late 1995. (<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/dmc/colls/ap/ap.html>) ON-GROUNDS OR PROXY SERVER ACCESS REQUIRED

**Ditto** – A visual search engine (<http://www.ditto.com>)

**Getty Images** – Provides contemporary photography, illustrations, and archival images along with news, sports, entertainment and archival images for editorial use. (<http://creative.gettyimages.com/source/home/home.aspx>)

**Google Images** (<http://www.google.com>)

**Historical Image Collection – Smithsonian** - represents twentieth-century scientific research consisting of images and original captions as they appeared in period publications (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/scienceservice/>)

**Images from the History of Medicine** - Provides access to the nearly 60,000 images. The collection includes portraits, pictures of institutions, caricatures, genre scenes, and graphic art in a variety of media, illustrating the social and historical aspects of medicine. ([http://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/gw\\_44\\_3/chameleon?skin.nlm](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/gw_44_3/chameleon?skin.nlm))

**Patents** - Patents are an excellent source for images. Visit the Brown Library web site for links to US and International patent sites. (<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/science/guides/s-patent.htm>)

**Perry Castañeda Library Map Collection** – an excellent source of on-line maps (<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>)

**Science & Society Picture Library** - represents over a million images from the Science Museum, the National Museum of Photography, Film & Television and the National Railway Museum. (<http://www.scienceandsociety.co.uk/>)

**UVA Library Digital Repository Image Collections** (<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/digital/collections/>)