

Where to Start My Research?

When one embarks on a new study, it pays to look around and see what has already been written on a topic. A review of published secondary literature, articles, and other sources is a great way to jump-start your own project research. Much “leg work” in ferreting out such resources has already been done for you: “The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and there is no new thing under the sun.”(Ecclesiastes 1:9)!

I. Online Catalogs

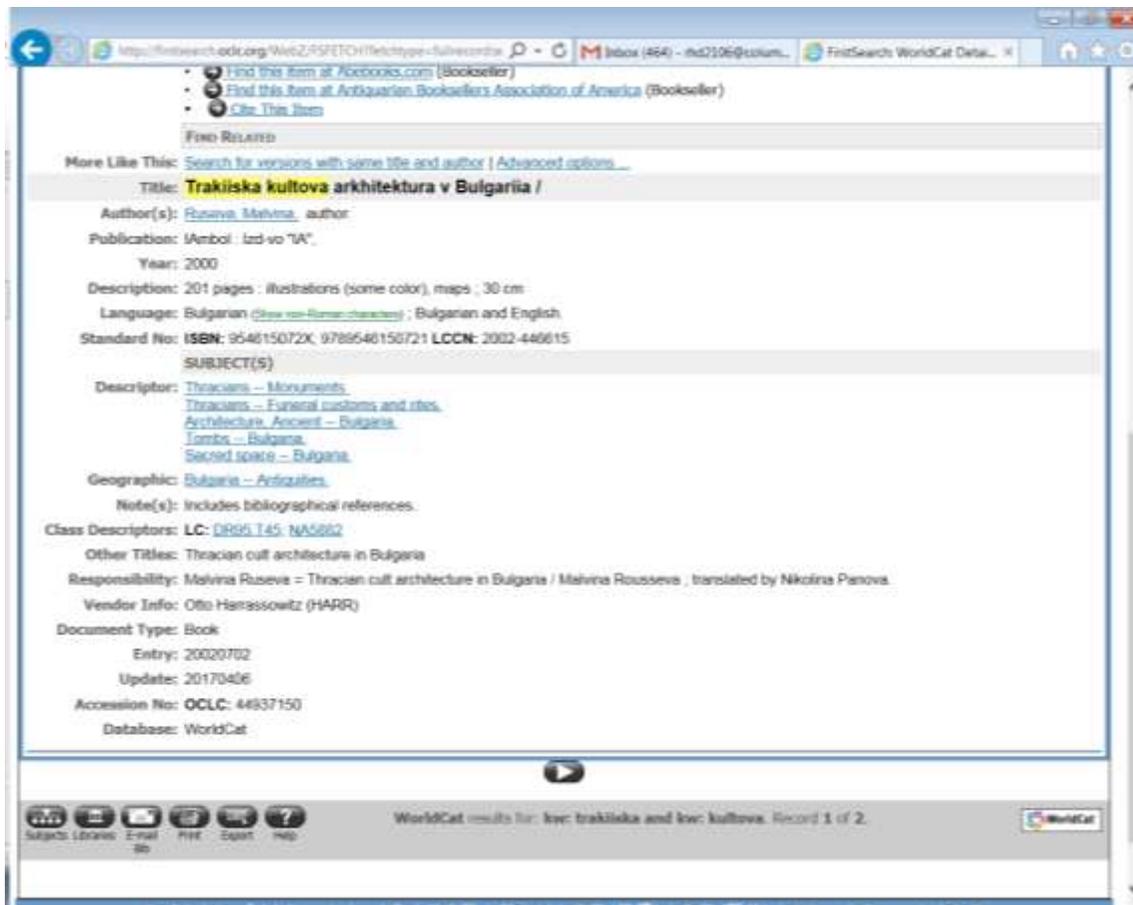
Obviously, good *CLIO* and *OCLC WorldCat* searches are THE places to start! *CLIO* <http://library.columbia.edu/> will quickly lead you to local resources, and offer you links to request materials from other BorrowDirect institutions. Note especially the many “scoping” features available via the left side-hand sidebar. You can narrow your initial search by format/publication date, language, etc.

WorldCat <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?AMS7418> provides you with the “big (bibliographic) picture” on your topic via access to records in holding institutions in the West, as well as some Slavic countries. A WorldCat search is one of the best ways to ensure your research is as comprehensive as possible. As an example, say you were interested in the work of the Soviet-era explorer of Mongolia A.D. Simukov. Type in the keywords “Simukov” and “Mongolia,” and you get the following:



Note that the system indicates whether a particular title is held by Columbia, and a click of “Libraries Worldwide” would indicate other holding institutions.

Both CLIO and WorldCat have great functionality that will save you considerable time. For example, when you come across a title that fits your research perfectly, you can click on the subject heading assigned to that title (or form of personal or organizational name), and you will be given a set of records with that exact same subject heading. So, for example, if you came across a citation to a work on Thracian architecture by Malvina Ruseva:



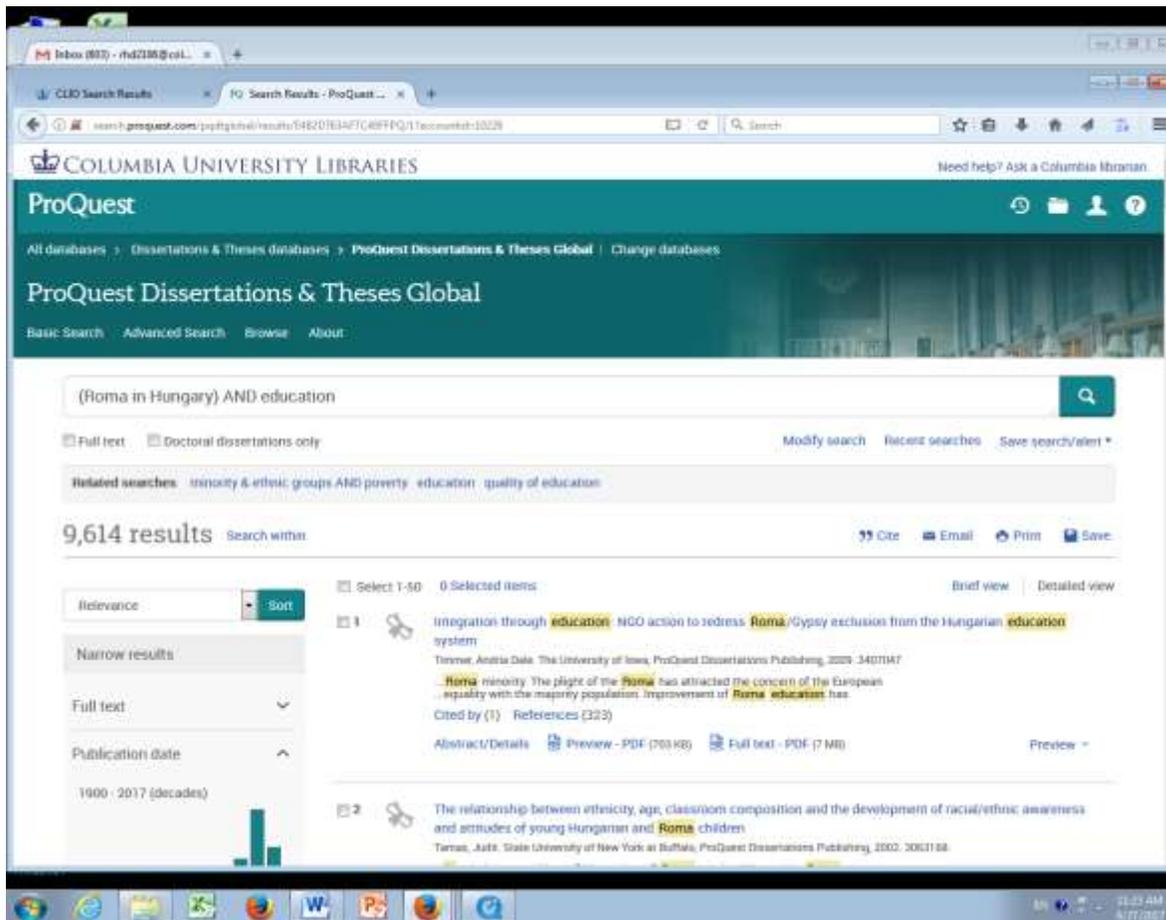
You could then click on the subject heading: “Tombs—Bulgaria” and pull up all titles in the OCLC database with that same subject heading.

II. Dissertations

On the subject of bibliography-building (as well as research topic-defining) a vital resource is the *Proquest Dissertations and Theses Database* <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?AQP0595>. This wonderful resource provides principally FULL-TEXT PDFs of dissertations from institutions of all kinds. This database is very easy to keyword search, and then further refine that search. You get to both read the full-text argument of other scholars on a given topic, AND (most importantly at an early stage of your research), the *sources* they used,

providing a foundation for your own exploration of the topic at hand and an opportunity to further narrow and refine it.

Here is an example. Say you were interested in studying education of the Roma population in Hungary:



You get over 9,614 results, yet these can be further “scoped down” by using the helpful side bar delimiters such as data of publication, more narrow subject, etc. What you have a full-text, searchable PDFs, with bibliographies and other useful features.

One also has access to the *ProQuest Dissertations & Theses for the UK & Ireland* <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio7517474>

III. Articles and Reviews

Another important tack to take at an early stage of your research is searching various INDEXING databases for articles, reviews, etc. pertaining to your topic. Here are some of the most useful that are focused on our field:

EBSCOhost Search Results

Internal Exclusion, External Inclusion, External ...

web.a.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?tid=4631d-6ec91e00-4313-4730-9c71-

AND Select a Field (optional)

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Result List Refine Search 3 of 18

Internal Exclusion, External Inclusion: Diaspora Politics and Party-Building Strategies in Post-Communist Hungary

Authors: Author: Waterbury, Myra A.

Source: East European Politics and Societies Summer August 2006, Vol. 20 Issue 3, p483-510

Publisher Information: Country of Publication: United States

Language: English

Subjects: Federation of Young Democrats (FIDESZ, Hungary); Hungarians--Eastern Europe; Hungary--Civil Society; Hungary--Ethnic Identity; Hungary--Law and Legislation; Hungary--Nationalism; Hungary--Political Participation

Note/Abstract: "This article examines the domestic politics behind Hungary's controversial 2001 'Status Law,' which granted special cultural and economic benefits to ethnic Hungarians who are citizens of other states. It argues that Hungary's increasingly interventionist policy toward ethnic Hungarians beyond its borders in the late 1990s was driven not by a growing sense of ethnic nationalism in society or as a reaction to the plight of ethnic kin but by the party-building strategy of right-wing elites. These elites utilized and coopted transnational ties

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English

You searched for: [\[Edit your search\]](#)

Article: Internal Exclusion, External Inclusion: Diaspora Politics and Party-Building Strategies in Post-Communist Hungary
 Author: Waterbury, Myra A.
 Journal: East European politics and societies
 ISSN: 0888-3254 Date: 06/01/2006
 Volume: 20 Issue: 3 Page: 483

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Links	Dates of Coverage	Resource
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Get Article Go to Journal	03/01/1999 - present	SAGE Premier 2017
Get Article		

Please see additional options below for finding this item:

and it takes you to a page where you can click to get the full-text article.

Unfortunately, a dedicated index to articles from *Western European* scholarship on Eastern Europe, Russia, and the former Soviet Union is no longer active. You may want to consult the [European Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies \(EBSEES\)](#), which was compiled in 1991-2007, and includes materials published in Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Slavic Humanities Index <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio10258416> is a useful, relatively new (2013) indexing database that is now becoming a full-text database, offering PDFs of more recently indexed articles. It is an excellent source for article citations (more than 240,000) in twenty-one vernacular languages of Central, Eastern, and South-eastern Europe, including indexed articles from periodicals issued in Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Macedonia, Poland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine (a particularly well-represented country).

In the sample search below, note that you can do your initial search either in the original language, or using transliteration. However, within PDFs, you can only right-click to do a

The screenshot shows the Slavic Humanities Index search interface. The browser window title is "Slavic Humanities Index" and the URL is "https://slavis.ca/app/searchadv.html". The page is in German ("Deutsch"). The search criteria are: "pilsudski" and "Lodz" in "Anywhere" fields, with "Language" set to "All" and "Date Range" from "1988" to "2017". The search results show 43 records. The first result is "Jerzy Żuławski i jego działalność w Łodzi w październiku 1914 r." from "Acta Universitatis Lodzianae. Folia Historica". The page also features a sidebar with "Share your feedback" and a list of periodical titles.

Deutsch
Slavic Humanities Index

Basic Search **Advanced Search** Subjects Title List Suggest a Title About Search Tips

Choose transliteration: Library of Congress International
Search in Native Alphabets:

pilsudski anywhere
and Lodz anywhere
and anywhere

Language: All
Date Range: 1988 2017
Limit to Book Reviews:

Search Clear

You searched for: Anywhere: pilsudski AND Anywhere: Lodz

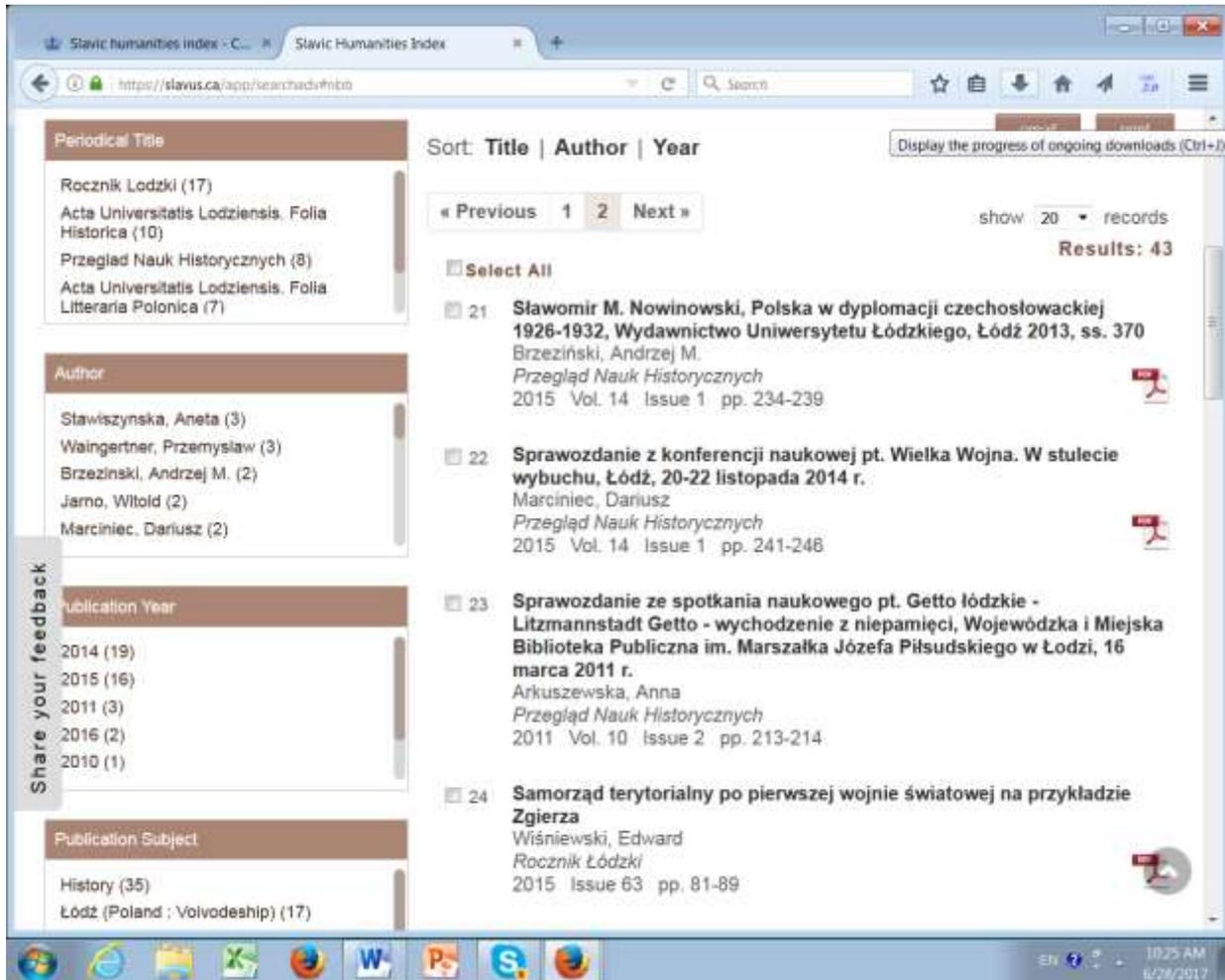
Sort: Title | Author | Year
« Previous 1 2 Next »
show 20 records
Results: 43

Select All
1 Jerzy Żuławski i jego działalność w Łodzi w październiku 1914 r.
Stawiszyńska, Aneta
Acta Universitatis Lodzianae. Folia Historica

Share your feedback
Periodical Title
Rocznik Łódzki (17)
Acta Universitatis Lodzianae. Folia Historica (10)
Przegląd Nauk Historycznych (8)
Acta Universitatis Lodzianae. Folia Litteraria Polonica (7)

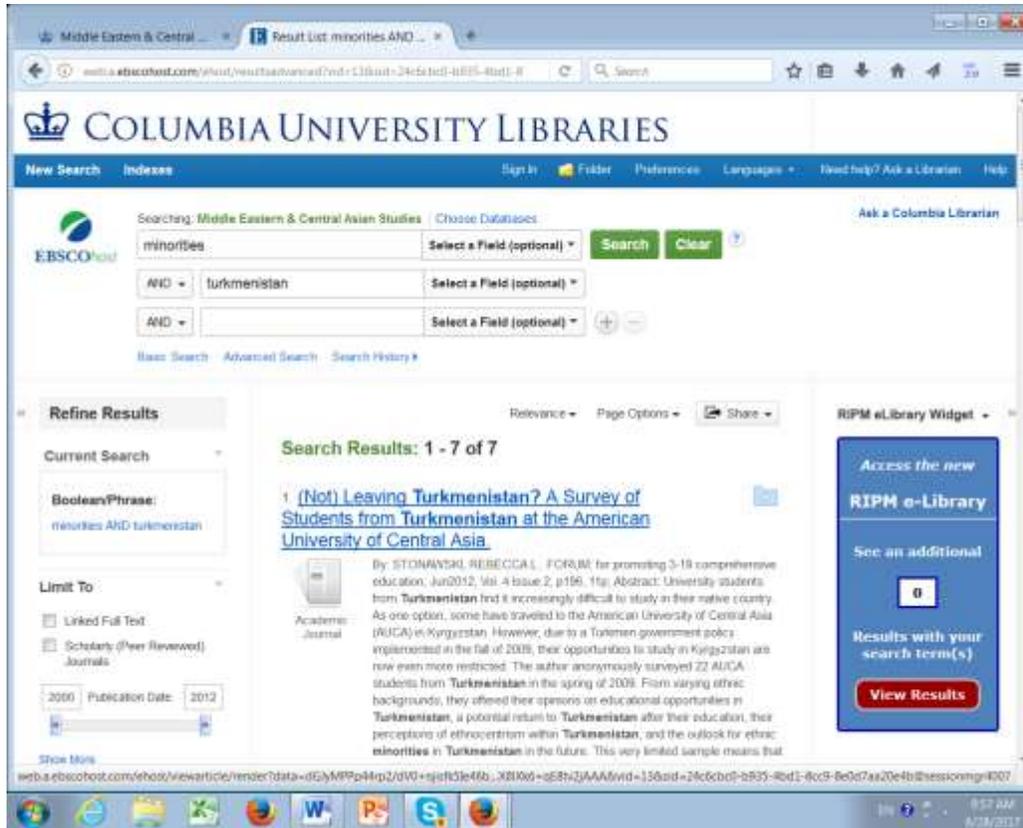
“Find” search in the *original* alphabet (e.g., Łódź, NOT Lodz). However, one does NOT need to use special truncation symbols to capture words with inflected endings. Right-clicking “find” and putting in “Piłs” will find all forms in the document wherever they occur.

As with other databases, you can further limit search results by using the left sidebar, as below.



Middle Eastern & Central Asian Studies (MECAS) is another useful indexing database for Middle Eastern and Central Asian studies. It provides a “bibliographic index of research, policy and scholarly discourse on the countries and peoples of the Middle East, Central Asia and North Africa.”

Below is a sample search result for articles on minorities in Turkmenistan:



Again, one may further narrow the search via the sidebar on the left of the screen.

Obviously, depending on one's topic, there are MANY options for general indexing databases—those that are not geographical region-specific—that will prove beneficial to your research. Feel free to contact a Global Studies Librarian—that's what we are here for!