*NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*

*Math 3520*

# *Beginning Library Research / Citation Assignment*

This assignment is a tool to get you started in using Library research resources and properly citing the resources you use.

For this exercise you may choose any topic you like related to mathematics. Some suggestions:

*Teaching methods*

*Word problems*

*Geometric concepts*

*Arithmetic*

*Problem solving*

*Numeracy*

*Negative numbers*

*Use of technology*

*Evaluation methods*

Part I: Searching Electronic Databases

The ease with which you find information often depends on your prep work. One of the most important preparation steps is identifying key words to use as search criteria. Word choice can often make or break your research experience. Think carefully about what you need/want to know about your topic and list words that, in combination with each other, will lead you to articles and books that will help you answer your research questions. Include alternative words for the same idea; i.e. Internet/World Wide Web/Web. Sometimes words that work well in one database will not work as well in another. For this reason you will want to think of multiple terms for the concept you are looking for.

**Keywords**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

FINDING SCHOLARLY JOURNAL/TRADE JOURNAL ARTICLES ABOUT YOUR SUBJECT

1. From the library’s home page, click on the **Articles** link under the “Find It” section of the left menu.
2. Select one of the beginning research databases. Depending on your topic you could also choose an Article Index by subject matter (i.e*. Education*, or *Mathematics and Statistics*) **and then** a database.
3. When the search window opens, notice that the search method offered is **Advanced Search.**
4. Enter search terms relevant to one of the sub-topics for a keyword search. What terms did you use? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Record the number of records listed at the top as **Results =** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

If your search indicates that **more than 50 articles** were found, revise your search criteria (additional keywords or “limit” options) and **try again**. Keep revising and searching until you have **fewer than 50 articles**. What were your final search criteria? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How many documents did this search find? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. **Choose and review three articles** which seem of most interest to you. Follow the instructions on the screen to view the abstracts or the full article if it is available. This should provide you with some ideas about narrowing the **subject to an interesting and manageable topic.**
2. Select the two most appropriate **scholarly** journal or **trade journal** articles on your topic and list the following information about them. (At least one of these articles should be from the journal Teaching Children Mathematics).
3. Using the APA Style handout on Electronic References construct the full citation for each article.

### **Article # 1**

Author(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Article: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Journal title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Volume, date, page numbers: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Database information is retrieved from: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is Full Text available online? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Look for the “Find it @ WMU” button, or an option to “Search the catalog at Western Michigan University Libraries.”

**Full APA Citation:**

#### Article # 2

Author(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title of Article: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Journal title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Volume, date, page numbers: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Database information is retrieved from: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Is Full Text available online? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Does WMU subscribe to the Journal? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Full APA Citation:**

#### FINDING BOOKS ABOUT YOUR TOPIC

1. Return to the Libraries home page and choose **WMU Library Catalog. S**elect **Guided Keyword Search and search for books about your topic**. You may have to try several different combinations of your keywords to find something relevant to your topic. Keywords that were successful in searching another database may or may not work well here. Choose one book and list the following information about it:

**Book # 1**

Author(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Place of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Call Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Status of book (checked out/not checked out): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Again using the Guided Keyword search in WestCat search for a book in the Investigations in Number Data and Space series. Hint: choose ***Series*** in the ***Search by*** drop down box on the right. Choose one book within this series which is relevant to your topic and list the following:

Author(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Place of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Publisher: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Publication: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Call Number: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Status of book (checked out/not checked out): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_