

How to find primary source material

MATH200

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Outline

- Picking a topic
- How to start
- What to do if you “can’t find anything”

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Picking a topic

- Look at the topic list
- Is there one that you understand?
 - Does it interest you (5 weeks worth)?
 - Yay! You have a topic!
- No? Google the one you understand most.
- See above sub questions
- Repeat as necessary until you figure out which one interests you
- Option 2: Wait until right before something is due and just pick one at random. (not recommended)

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How to start

- Through the school
- Through Google

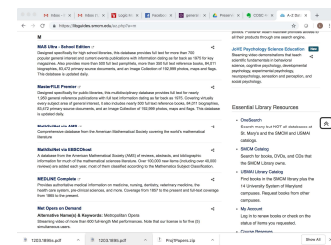
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Through the school (part 1)

- Go to the library website (<https://library.smcm.edu>)
- Choose “Databases” then the letter M databases
- Choose MathSciNet via AMS

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SMCM Library Databases Webpage



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Through the school (part 2)

- Log in with your library login information (library card # is under the barcode on your Student ID)
- Search for your topic
- Click on the "find it" button
- If available, you will be able to download the pdf here
- If not available, you can do an InterLibrary Loan request for it, but you should try to find at least a few that are available more quickly

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Example Search (MathSciNet)

The screenshot shows a search results page on MathSciNet. The search term is 'Tao'. The results list several papers, including one by Terence Tao titled 'The bilinear restriction estimate for the sphere'. The page includes a search bar, filters, and a list of search results with details like author, title, and publication information.

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Find It Options

The image shows two screenshots of the 'Find It' button on the library website. The left screenshot shows the button with a yellow highlight and the text 'Find it at St. Mary's College of Maryland Library'. The right screenshot shows the same button with a yellow highlight and the text 'Find it at St. Mary's College of Maryland Library'. Both screenshots show the search bar and the 'Find It' button.

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Through Google

- Just search for your topic
 - May result in things that are not useful
 - Wikipedia is NOT a primary source, but can give you an idea of what other sources are out there (see the "References" section of the topic page).
 - Be ware of misinformation (if one site doesn't agree with anyone else, you may want to think again about using it)
- Go to <https://scholar.google.com>
 - Search for your topic
 - Note that if a PDF is available, you'll see that in blue on the right side of the screen (arXiv is a valid place to download from)

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Google Scholar Example

The screenshot shows a Google Scholar search results page for the query 'Tao'. The search bar contains 'Tao' and the search button is highlighted. The results list several papers, including one by Terence Tao titled 'The bilinear restriction estimate for the sphere'. The page includes a search bar, filters, and a list of search results with details like author, title, and publication information.

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What to do if you "can't find anything"

- Consider broadening your search parameters
- Consider removing some parameters
- Check in another location (on campus vs. WWW)
- Ask TA or Prof for suggestions (we'll want to know what you tried)
 - (fair warning that this may result in a "Let me Google that for you" link)
- Go to the Library and talk to the Librarians (research is their specialty!)

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AMS Citations

- American Mathematical Society, not American Meteorological Society!
- Citations are done in-line with a number, referencing an entry in the bibliography:

2. A HISTORY OF TREISMAN-STYLE WORKSHOPS

Uri Treisman developed a specific style of workshops in the 1960s and 70s at University of California, Berkeley, with the philosophy "not to 'fix the students,' but rather to change at least a small part of the university environment, by making it more welcoming, both socially and academically".[2] These workshops were the result of observations by Treisman of the work habits of successful and unsuccessful students in calculus courses [10]. Specifically, Treisman was attempting to ascertain the reasons for failure among minority students in freshman calculus. In observing the study habits of various ethnicities of calculus students, Treisman realized that African American students' academic lives were quite sepa-

[2] R. Asera. Calculus and community: A history of the emerging scholars program. Technical report, National Task Force on Minority High Achievement, College Board., 2001.

[3] M. V. Bossange. An efficacy study of the calculus workshop model. *CEMS Issues in Mathematics Education*, 4:117–137, 1994.

[4] D. Chinn and K. Martin. Problem-based learning in computer science. *JCSG*, 21(1):239–245, 2005.

[5] D. Chinn, C. Spencer, and K. Martin. Problem solving and student performance in data structures and algorithms. In *ITICSE '07*, pages 241–245, Dundee, Scotland, UK, June 23–27, 2007. 2007.

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AMS Citations

Reference style:

[number] Author(s) name, article name, *journal/book name*, volume (if it exists), page numbers, publisher, year.

[number] Author(s) name, *article name*, website, accessed: date.

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