

Ethnography Script

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This guide has been designed to assist you with locating ethnographies utilizing the resources found in Steely Library

There is a picture of three artifacts on this page.

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So, to get started, first let's determine exactly what ethnography means. Ethnography is defined as: A form of anthropology where a variety of anthropological practices and field research techniques are used to study people in their daily lives and activities.

There is an image of a large question mark

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There are several resources available through Steely Library where you can locate ethnographies quickly & easily. So, let's get started. First, you'll want to go to Steely Library's webpage and choose Articles and Databases from the Library's Quick Links drop down menu. All the databases that I'll be showing you can be accessed 24/7 from any computer. The only thing you will need if you're off campus, is your username and password, just like if you were checking your NKU email-- this authenticates you as an NKU user and lets you enter the databases.

There is a screenshot of the Library page with the Library's Quick Links drop down menu highlighted to show Articles and Databases.

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Once in the Databases page, choose D from the alphabetical list and then the database Dissertations & Theses. This database will allow us to search for dissertations written on our topic. Looking at dissertations can be helpful in several ways-both to obtain information, but also to find possible sources within the dissertation's bibliography. Once in the database, you can do a search for your topic.

There is a screenshot of the Library 's database page with the Dissertations & Theses Database highlighted

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Here, I've chosen the Advanced search, and searched ethnograph* in the first search box and "farmer's market" In the second box. In this particular search, I've used 3 advanced searching strategies—the first is truncation. Here, by taking the root part of the word ethnoography (ethnograph) and putting an asterisk after it, I've created a searching scenario where it will search for ethnographical, ethnography, and ethnographies simultaneously. This can save a lot of time. Different databases handle truncation also known as wildcards differently, so always check your help screen if you want to determine the symbol

you can use to truncate. The second search strategy is to narrow my search by adding an AND to my first search term. If my topic is Farmer's markets, narrowing with this term can be much more helpful than just searching the broad term ethnography. A third search strategy is to put quotation marks around any phrase you want to search to get more precise results. Here, I've used quotes around the phrase "farmer's markets".

There is a screenshot of the Dissertations & Theses Database with the search terms ethnograph* in the first search box and "farmer's market" in the second box.

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Another place you can look for dissertations is within the databases of Ebscohost. So, return to the Library Quick Links dropdown menu and choose Articles and Databases again. This time, choose E for Ebscohost and then Ebscohost Web. Once here, you'll have to place checkmarks next to the databases you want to search. For finding ethnographies, I would suggest two databases-Academic Search Premier and Sociological Collection. Once they've both been checked, go to the bottom and click on the continue button.

There is a screenshot of the Ebscohost page where databases are chosen, and the check next to Academic Search is highlighted.

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Once in these two databases, I went to the Advanced search and searched Ethnograph* combined with the term casino. This search yielded 20 results. If you see a link below an article that says Full-text, you can click on this and open the article on your computer

There is a screenshot of the Database with the search terms ethnograph* in the first search box and casino in the second box and the pdf full-text highlighted..

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If you see an article that does not have a full-text link, there are still ways you might access this article. One way is to click on the NKUIRE catalog link and see if the journal is available in Steely for the date you need. If you need help doing this, you can click on the Ask Steely Library link on all Steely webpages and use one of those services. You can also click in Linksource to determine if the journal might be available full-text in another Steely database. Once you've clicked on LinkSource, if it's available electronically you'll see a link to another database which you can follow to get your article. If both of these options fail, you can order your article via Sourcefinder.

There is a screenshot of the search result, with NKUIRE, SourceFinder, and LinkSource options highlighted.

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Now let me tell you about Sourcefinder. You may not always be able to locate the items you need via Steely Library. If this happens, you can order them through Sourcefinder. This video was created to explain SourceFinder to graduate students, but offers step by step instructions that may be helpful to you as well. Click on the button to view the video or if you opt not to watch the video, you can click on the fast forward button now to move on with the presentation. Please note that if you do watch the video, you'll have to close the video page once it plays, then push the forward button in this presentation to advance to the next slide. http://library.nku.edu/students/graduate_students/sourcefinder.php

There is a screenshot of the Library page with the Library's Quick Links drop down menu highlighted to show SourceFinder

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You might also want to try other databases from Steely Library's page. Possibilities include JSTOR (full-text) or some others such as Anthropological Literature, or Sociological Abstracts (Note: these last two do not offer full-text, but could be ordered via SourceFinder). These are all available via Steely Library's Database page.

There is a screenshot of the Library Database page.

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You can also locate ethnographies in NKUIRE, the online catalog of Steely Library. NKUIRE can be accessed easily via the Library's Quick Links drop down menu.

There is a screenshot of the Library page with the Library's Quick Links drop down menu highlighted to show NKUIRE.

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Here I've demonstrated how you can truncate the word ethnography in NKUIRE. As you can see, NKUIRE truncates by using a question mark after the root word, like I've done here for ethnography.

There is a screenshot of an NKUIRE search for ethnograph?.

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As you can see, my NKUIRE search for ethnograph truncated yielded over 400 results

There is a screenshot of the NKUIRE results page showing 411 results.

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Here, I've decided to narrow my results by adding wom? Which will search for woman and women in addition to my other search term ethnograph?. This will yield less results and help me get results closer to my narrower topic.

There is a screenshot of an NKUIRE search for ethnograph? AND wom?

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While there are excellent scholarly articles to be found using Steely Library's databases, there are also several strategies available if you choose to supplement your research by using Google. The first is to choose advanced search in Google and narrow by domain. For example, an .edu or .gov search can narrow the results considerably, and remove some of the junk from your search.

There is a screenshot of an Google advanced search for ethnography gambling "race track" site:.edu

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Another strategy within Google is to try Google Scholar which is found under More on Google's site. Sometimes you will locate articles that link to NKU's databases like JSTOR. Other times, there will be a fee required to access articles. Don't ever pay for an article—simply take the citation information for the article and request it via Source Finder for free.

There is a Google Scholar screenshot for ethnography buffet restaurant

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One Steely resource that will help you save time as you research is RefWorks. RefWorks is a web-based research management, writing and collaboration tool, designed to help researchers easily gather, manage, store and share all types of information, as well as generate citations and bibliographies. To learn more about RefWorks, click on the button below. Click on the button to view the video or if you opt not to watch the video, you can click on the fast forward button now to move on with the presentation. Please note that if you do watch the video, you'll have to close the video page once it plays, then push the forward button in this presentation to advance to the next slide.

http://library.nku.edu/students/graduate_students/refworks.php

There is a screenshot of the NKU Ref Works login page

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Hopefully you've learned some information that will help you locate ethnographies through the resources at Steely Library. If you would ever need help finding ethnographies, or if you have other questions about the resources and services of Steely Library, we hope you'll use our Ask Steely Library Services. To learn more, view this video by clicking the button. After you've watched the Ask Steely Library video, you're finished with this presentation.http://library.nku.edu/students/graduate_students/ask_steely_library.php

There is a screenshot of the Library page with the Library's Quick Links drop down menu highlighted to show Ask Steely Library .