

Individual Assignment: Answering Reference Questions

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Part 1. Database Searches

1. I read an article in the St. Pete Times about zoo babies and the controversies about breeding as part of the Species Survival Plan and marketing efforts to increase revenue. I don't remember which zoo the article was specifically about. Can you help me find the article again?

Certainly! How interesting. We know from your query that you believe the article you are searching for is in the St. Pete Times. Did you read the piece recently? Let's check out the USF Libraries Catalog Quicksearch first and see if we get lucky. I enter "St. Petersburg Times Zoo Babies" into the Quicksearch box. I receive 392 results. I change the resource to Newspaper Search and get 992 results – heading in the wrong direction! I realized that my Quicksearch results were not, in fact, bringing up any St. Pete Times articles at all. I wondered if my patron had the incorrect resource. However, I also remembered that newspapers are bought and merged frequently. I googled *St. Petersburg Times* and quickly found that it is now known as Tampa Bay Times. A search of *Tampa Bay Times'* archives brought me to Newspapers.com where I found the article my patron is seeking:

"Bringing up babies, bringing in dollars" by Rebecca Catlanello, Sunday, July 9, 2006

***Tampa Bay Times*. The zoo in question is Lowery Park Zoo.** Working backward, I found the Tampa Bay Times in the database search. It is located in the Newsbank Access World News Research Collection. It took me three times as long to find the information using this resource.

1. I'm looking for a newspaper article that ran in Florida about a USF professor who does research on mice and coffee drinking. Who is the professor and what department was he with?

But the real question is, do mice really need coffee? But let's get to your query: Again, my first strategy is to Quicksearch the USF catalog and, since this patron is giving me a modifier that the professor in question teaches at USF, I feel it's likely a good option. My search terms are "Mice and Coffee". 58,592 results! But the second hit is:

Schleif, & Arendash, G. W. (2005). *Effects of long-term administration of caffeine in a mouse model for Alzheimer's disease*. University of South Florida.

At this point I would follow up with my patron to see if this is the information they are looking for since this is a dissertation and not an "article".

I filter my search to Newspaper Search and add "USF" to "Mice and Coffee" The first hit brings me to:

RICHARD MARTIN St Petersburg (Fla) Times. (2011). Coffee repels Alzheimer's: Study. *The Journal Gazette*. <https://doi.org/info:doi/>

I access this resource through the Newsbank database. This article is not from a Florida newspaper but from The Journal Gazette, Fort Wayne, Indiana but the author of the article is Richard Martin, a writer for the Tampa Bay Times. The article lists the study's lead author as **USF Health's Dr. Chuanhai Cao, Byrd Alzheimer's Institute**. I follow up with my patron and confirm this is the information they seek.

2. I am a big fan of the movie “Titanic” but I’m really interested in the real story rather than the Hollywood version. I heard that one of the few remaining survivors died in the last couple of years. Please help me find a copy of the obituary. What was the survivor’s name, and do you think we could also find out if there are any other survivors still living?

The Titanic and its history is certainly fascinating. This feels like a straightforward query. We are looking specifically for an obituary. I use the search in USF Libraries with the terms “Titanic and Obituaries” then filter my searches to Newspaper. One of my top hits looks promising:

The Associated Press. (2007). Barbara Dainton, 96, Among Last From Titanic: Obituary (Obit). *The New York Times*.

I explore the finding in the ProQuest database. From Barbara Dainton’s Obituary we learn that she was one of two of the last survivors of the Titanic. The other, Elizabeth Gladys Dean, was two months old at the time of the sinking of the Titanic. I’m going to use that name in a new search to see if Ms. Dean is still alive or if we will find her obituary as well. I search “Elizabeth Gladys Dean” and find several obituaries written for her, linking out to ProQuest and after exploring four of them that our library subscription doesn’t have access to, I find one that we do:

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/1030683620/fulltextPDF/B3914356E9C04E5BPQ/1?accountid=14745>

According to The New York Times obituary, written by John F. Burns, Elizabeth Gladys Dean, aka, Millvina Dean died Sunday, May 31, 2009 in Southampton, England – the same port from which the Titanic launched on its maiden voyage.

Part 2: Reference Questions

1. I heard this in passing and would like to find the complete text and the author:

“We look to the sky and with outstretched fingers touch the face of God.”

“Hm. Was it Ronald Reagan?” I say to my patron with head tilted back and eyes narrowed. “In his speech following the Challenger disaster?” Let’s find out. I’m going to google the phrase. No. I’m wrong! Maybe that speech was inspired by John Gillespie Magee Jr.’s Poem *High Flight*? Yes! It’s right here in the same search results for the phrase. The entire speech, written by Peggy Noonan, can be found on www.nasa.gov. Magee’s poem is quoted at the end of the speech. However, the phrase is slightly different than what our patron is asking for. The phrase from Reagan’s speech is the first and last lines of the poem: “Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth ...Put out my hand and touched the face of God.” So...let’s dig a little deeper into our search results. Ah. Here it is in a piece from *The New Republic*. **The quote is from Aaron Sorkin’s television show, “The West Wing” Episode 1.5 “The Crackpots and These Women” spoken by President Bartlet, portrayed by Martin Sheen.**

I googled the phrase plus “President Bartlet” to verify and found a YouTube clip as well as the episode information in IMDB. **Full text of the speech, located at the end of the episode, can be found in this transcript:**

<https://communicationsoffice.tripod.com/1-05.txt>

Magee, J. G. (2017, February 14). *High flight*. National Poetry Day. Retrieved April 11, 2022, from <https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poem/high-flight/>

Dunbar, B. (2004, June 7). *President Reagan's remarks following the loss of the Space Shuttle Challenger and her crew*. NASA. Retrieved April 11, 2022, from https://www.nasa.gov/audience/formedia/speeches/reagan_challenger.html

Bennett, L. (2022, April 11). *Aaron Sorkin's romantically wonky imagination*. The New Republic. Retrieved April 11, 2022, from <https://newrepublic.com/article/104181/aaron-sorkins-the-newsroom>

IMDb.com. (1999, October 20). *"The west wing" The crackpots and these women*. IMDb. Retrieved April 11, 2022, from <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0745690/>

DanthemaN9199. (2008, April 6). *The crackpots and these women: Bartlet's speech*. YouTube. Retrieved April 11, 2022, from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ByU35CMv2Y>

- 2. I'm worried about allowing my child to have foods with aspartame. How much of it is safe to eat on a regular basis?**

As I am a reference librarian and not a doctor, I would advise consulting your family pediatrician. In the meantime, I can point you to some reference items concerning aspartame consumption and children. First, I search the USF Libraries for “aspartame” for general information. A helpful “About the Topic” window pops up giving me quick answer for my patron about what aspartame is exactly. A medical dictionary reference seems appropriate to share as well.

aspartame. (2020). In *Concise Medical Dictionary* (10th ed.). Oxford University Press.

I change my search to “Aspartame and Children” then turn the monitor to my patron so they may review the results – there are 4,784 – and ask if there is anything in particular, they are concerned about. They choose this entry:

Wolraich, Lindgren, S. D., Stumbo, P. J., Stegink, L. D., Appelbaum, M. I., & Kiritsy, M. C. (1994).

Effects of Diets High in Sucrose or Aspartame on The Behavior and Cognitive

Performance of Children. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 330(5), 301–307.

<https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJM199402033300501>

3. What is the history of the Hotel Spokane? It was located in Spokane, Wa

[Washington, USA] many years ago. When was it built? What happened to it? Are there pictures available?

An archives question! My favorite. I googled “Hotel Spokane History” since the patron’s query modifiers lead me to believe the hotel is no longer standing. My

search brings me an article from *The Spokesman-Review*. **The five-story hotel was built in 1889 from the burned remnants of a three-story warehouse. It was torn down in 1961 and the Ridpath Motor Inn was built in its place. The article includes a photograph of the exterior of the hotel as well as the building that replaced it.**

Tinsley, J. (2016, February 28). *Then and now: Hotel Spokane and Clarence Taylor*.

Spokesman.com. Retrieved April 11, 2022, from

<https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2016/feb/29/then-and-now-hotel-spokane/>

The Washington State Historical Society offers additional photographs of the exterior:

Collection item. Washington State Historical Society. (2019, December 11). Retrieved April

11, 2022, from [https://www.washingtonhistory.org/research/collection-](https://www.washingtonhistory.org/research/collection-item/?search_term=Spokane%2BHotel&search_params=search_term%253DSpokane%25)

[item/?search_term=Spokane%2BHotel&search_params=search_term%253DSpokane%25](https://www.washingtonhistory.org/research/collection-item/?search_term=Spokane%2BHotel&search_params=search_term%253DSpokane%25)

[2BHotel&irn=70243](https://www.washingtonhistory.org/research/collection-item/?search_term=Spokane%2BHotel&search_params=search_term%253DSpokane%252BHotel&irn=70243)

