

AARP's AgeLine Database Using AgeLine in the Classroom

The AgeLine Team invites educators in the field of gerontology to share ways in which they use the AgeLine Database and resources on the AgeLine Home Page with their students. Submit your techniques to ageline@aarp.org. Those selected will be posted on the [AgeLine Home Page](#). The following assignment was submitted by Dr. Donna Konradi of the University of Indianapolis. Please provide the appropriate citation if redistributing this assignment.

****Note: Browse or download the AgeLine Thesaurus at <http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline/thesaurus.html>. Or, a free copy can be obtained by sending your postal address and request to ageline@aarp.org.**

GERO 586: Research Methods is a core course in the Master's of Science in Gerontology curriculum. For further information about this course or the Master's of Science in Gerontology program at the University of Indianapolis, e-mail dkonradi@uindy.edu.

LITERATURE SEARCH ASSIGNMENT GERO 586: Research Methods

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Assignment Objectives

1. Identify and refine researchable problems in gerontology
2. Use the AgeLine electronic database to locate current topic-specific research literature in gerontology
3. Use APA format to write a paper describing the procedures used to search the literature
4. Use APA format to write a reference list.

Literature Search Assignment Directions and Resources

1. Develop a refined topic
 - a. How to Research a Term Paper in Gerontology
<http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline/termpaper.html>
 - b. This is an example of a paper describing the search strategies used to acquire topic specific resources:
The effects of cognitive behavioral interventions on dropout for youth with disabilities: Search strategies.
<http://www2.edc.org/ndpc-sd/cognitive/searchstrats.pdf>
2. Identify a list of topic appropriate key words and terms
3. Locate the homepage for the AgeLine database. Please note that although AgeLine database is available for free from the AARP

- homepage, the free version is not the same as the version available from the UIndy library. The library version was purchased by the University because it has more resources and features.
- a. From the *UIndy intranet homepage*, click the Library Link at the top of the page.
 - b. From the Library page, find the box titled Databases and select *All Databases Alphabetical Listing*
 - c. The *AgeLine Database* should appear as the second listing (unless others have been very recently added).
4. Review the resources available on the AgeLine Toolbox section of the AgeLine homepage.
- a. Searching AgeLine: Includes information in the HELP Topics section that will help you develop search strategies. Also provides information about the various types of searches available (basic, advanced, multiple options, author, subject, word, etc).
 - b. About AgeLine: Includes general information about the database and strategies for finding specific types of information (research and policy publications, professional and provider publications, and general interest and consumer publications).
 - c. AgeLine Online Demo: Includes a 10 minute PowerPoint presentation, How to Use the AgeLine Thesaurus, an AgeLine Quick Search Topic List and How to Research a Term Paper in Gerontology.
 - d. *Thesaurus of Aging Terminology, 8th Edition, 2005*: Consult the thesaurus to find the AgeLine key words that best describe your topic. These will be the key words that you enter into the search fields.
 - e. Journal Title List: The AgeLine database includes about 600 journals.
 - f. How to Research a Term Paper in Gerontology: This article outlines helpful tips for completing a literature search and writing a term paper.
5. Compare your list of topic appropriate key words (from step 2) with the words included in the AgeLine Database Thesaurus of Aging Terminology.
6. Select key words (from the AgeLine thesaurus) for entry into the AgeLine electronic database. Be sure to limit your results to research and policy publications.
7. Perform your literature search.
8. From the list retrieved of citations, acquire the four research articles that are most relevant to your topic. The AgeLine database will provide you with both policy and research literature. You will need to review each citation to select only research articles.
9. Using APA format as described in the *Concise Rules of APA Style*, write a 2-3 page paper describing your literature search process and the specific strategies used to locate your 4 research articles. I have included additional resources for the APA Guidelines on the GERO 586 website (see External Links APA Formatting and Style Guide, <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>). Please note that APA

Guidelines address issues related to both grammar and format. Throughout this course, we will expect that student papers adhere to the APA Guidelines. One of the identifiers of a professional is the ability to write clearly (according to the rules of grammar) and to follow a specified writing format.

10. Using APA format as described in the *Concise Rules of APA Style*, write a reference list that includes the four articles acquired. The reference list is in addition to the 2-3 page paper.
11. Bring two copies of each of your 4 research article to class (one for yourself and one for the course faculty members).
12. Select one of your articles and bring sufficient copies for each class participant (faculty and peers). Check Blackboard for number of students enrolled.

The following websites should be used as resources to complete this assignment:

Databases available at the University of Indianapolis Krannert Memorial Library
<http://kml.uindy.edu/databases/index.php>

How to research a term paper in gerontology
<http://www.aarp.org/research/ageline/termpaper.html>

The effects of cognitive behavioral interventions on dropout for youth with disabilities: Search strategies. (This is an example of a paper describing the search strategies used to acquire topic specific resources).
<http://www2.edc.org/ndpc-sd/cognitive/searchstrats.pdf>

If you are unsure about the rules for quoting and paraphrasing material, review the information provided in the article titled: Is it Plagiarism Yet?
(<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/589/02/>)

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