Research Guide for Exposé Assignment

This guide provides tips on how to find French-language materials for the Exposé assignment:

Reference Sources
Finding French-language Books and Films
Finding French-language Articles
Finding Reliable Websites
Citing Sources

Reference Sources

Consider using Reference Sources to start, to clarify terms, spellings, geographical context, key search terms, areas of interest, etc. (Books marked “REF” are in the Reference Section on the main floor.)

Brief Country Information in French:

*Dictionnaire universel francophone* (Country section: p.1380-1520) PC 2625 .D54 1997 REF

*Le Petit Larousse illustré.* PC 2625 .L34 2007 REF

*Le Petit Robert des noms propres.* PC 2625 R.56 2014 REF

Dictionaries of “francophonismes”:

*Dictionnaire des identités culturelles de la francophonie.* DC 34 .W525 1993 REF

*Les facéties de la francophonie.* PC 2460 .R43 2009 REF

*Petit dictionnaire insolite des mots de la francophonie.* PC 2625 .D47 2013 REF

*Le vocabulaire de la francophonie.* PC 3556 .V632 2008 REF

French Pronunciation:

*Le Petit Robert* online (and some other online dictionaries) include a “Prononciation” button for many
Dictionaries, Grammar, and Writing Guides:

Key sources are listed in the French Subject Guide, under Reference Sources and Web Sources.

Finding French-language Books and Films:

Use the Library Catalogue (First QuickLink on library homepage)

Key to success: Use multiple search strategies:

Ways to limit a catalogue search to French-language materials:

a) Select “Advanced Keyword Search” and enter the English country name in the Subject field and limit the language to French;

b) Enter the country name in French as a keyword, e.g. maroc

c) Use the word “French” as a keyword combined with your country name. This may help find films, for example, where subtitles are available in French. (e.g. morocco and french)

Other catalogue search tips:

- Search for the larger geographic entity or region as well, e.g. Guadeloupe, but also Antilles, or Louisiane and also Amérique française. Even broader: la francophonie. (There may not be many books available on some countries.)

- Search more narrowly: e.g. a major city or part of your chosen country: (e.g. Tahiti)

- Once a good book is found, click on the “Catalog Record” link to see the full record and the subject terms used. Click on relevant subject terms to find more books on the subject.

- Use Advanced Search to limit by format, location, language, etc.

- Use the truncation symbol: $ in keyword searches to get the root word and all possible endings (e.g. maroc$, to get maroc, marocain, marocains, etc.)

- Search keyword(s) in the “Subject” field for more relevancy (especially place names).

- Note the location and call number to find books on the shelf.
Finding French-language Articles:

Article databases can be accessed from the A-Z List of Databases on the library homepage.

Select ProQuest(All) to search a combination of databases with a wide range of sources including magazines, journals, newspapers, blogs, etc., and limit the search by language.

*Repère: index analytique d’articles de périodiques de langue française* indexes hundreds of French-language magazines and journals. Some are available in full-text.

Many of the academic article databases subscribed to by the library contain French-language articles, and have an option to limit by language (e.g. Art Index, Historical Abstracts, JSTOR, Project Muse, etc.) *Érudit* is a database of scholarly journals with mostly French-language content. *LexisNexis* includes French-language news sources from around the world.

General Search Tips for Article Databases:

Use ‘and’ to combine keywords; ‘or’ to broaden searches using synonyms;
Use field searching (e.g. Subject, Abstract, Assigned Keywords) to increase relevance;
Use double quotes for phrase searching;
Use * to truncate words to get all possible endings (! in LexisNexis)
Change article sort to most recent where appropriate;
Limit by type of source where available;
Copy and paste citation information for each article saved or used and check for completeness;

Full-text Access to Articles: Use Journal Finder (Quick Link on library homepage)
If you have a reference for an article, check Journal Finder to see if the article is accessible through one of the library’s subscribed article databases. If not, you can request the article through interlibrary loan. Instructions are on the library website.

Finding Reliable Websites:

The official tourism site for your country or region should be a good source of information, as may the Ministry of Culture or related government websites. If a reference source or travel guide hasn’t supplied these URLs, add ‘tourisme’ and ‘officiel’ to a google search for your country name in French.

Although some countries use a .com address for these sites, you can try the Google site limit option to limit the search to a site from within the country (e.g. for Monaco: tourism officiel site:.mc), or to limit the sites found to a government page (e.g. tourism site:gouv.mc). (Not all countries will use “gouv” in their official website URL. (e.g. Morocco government: gov.ma)

Search amazon.fr for these ‘Guides de voyage’-- some of them have sections available online, e.g. some of the Petit futé series. Click on the “feuilleter” link above the cover image, where available, to see a few pages or a section of the book.

Citing Sources:

Familiarize yourself with the elements required to cite sources, BEFORE starting your research. The details required (e.g. author or authoring body, publisher, date, etc.) are also elements you should be using to evaluate the usefulness and reliability of the source.

MLA citation guides and tip sheets are available on the library website under the “Research Help” tab.

Librarians at the Research Help Desk can help if you have trouble finding, accessing, or citing sources. You can also contact me directly at acannon@mta.ca.

My contact information and this course guide are both available in the French Subject Guide at http://libraryguides.mta.ca/french.