DISCOVERY
Using *Star Trek* to Teach Students How Libraries Structure Access to Scholarly Journal Articles

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FOR AN EDITABLE VERSION OF THE INFOGRAPHIC THAT YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE FOR YOUR LIBRARY USING MICROSOFT PUBLISHER, EMAIL LAURA.WIMBERLEY@CSUN.EDU
Or, What binge watching can tell you about academic research

An article contains a complete argument but is also part of a larger scholarly conversation.

An episode plot is also part of a larger narrative arc.

A year’s worth of articles adds up to a volume. A year’s worth of episodes adds up to a season.

These regularly released collections are part of a journal series. Some have completed their run, and some are ongoing.

Journals are made available by databases networks. Some are focused on a particular topic. Some have a wide variety of content.

OneSearch searches nearly all of Oviatt Library’s databases at the same time.

OneSearch also finds books, videos, music, and more.

If you need help finding a specific article, choosing a database, or doing any kind of research, call 818.677.2285 or text 818.900.2965.

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Scholarship as Conversation
- Academic disciplines as fandoms
- Conferences as conventions like ComicCon
- The concept of "canon"

Information Creation as a Process
- Gives a sense of time frame for publication of scholarly articles

Information Has Value
- Explains the concepts of volume and issue needed for correction citation
- Explains that scholarly journals are mostly a subscription service the library pays for

Searching as Strategic Exploration
- Helps students understand how information is organized
- Guides students in choosing focused database vs. unified discovery system

ANOTHER ANALOGY OPTION

The analogy requires at least one well-known television series (to compare to journals) and feature films (analogous to books) that are in conversation with each other. Ideally comics, fanfiction, etc. serve as an analogy to grey literature.

- Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D., Luke Cage, Jessica Jones, and others in the larger Marvel Cinematic Universe are ideal for this purpose.
- In Marvel fandom, the feature films are primary and the television shows fill out lesser known characters, making it a better analogy for the humanities, where groundbreaking theoretical research is still more grounded in books.
- Star Trek, where the television shows are the primary story-telling vehicles and the films are secondary, is more comparable to journal-driven STEM fields.