Final Project: Evaluation and Selection of Essential LIS Databases for Researching Chicago Sports LIS4501

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Introduction:

This project aims to identify the most essential databases for researching Chicago sports, aligning with my professional goals in Library and Information Science (LIS). The selected databases will support comprehensive research on various aspects of Chicago sports, including history, statistics, and cultural impact.

1. **Databases to be Removed:**

Database Name	Vendor	Reason for Removal
ERIC	EBSCOhost	Focuses on educational resources, not relevant to Chicago sports research.
Gale OneFile: News	Gale	Overlap with other news databases that offer more comprehensive sports coverage.
Library Literature & Information Science Full Text	EBSCOhost	Primarily for LIS-specific literature, less relevant for sports research.
Scopus	Elsevier	Expensive with similar features to other citation analysis databases already included.
EBSCO eBooks	EBSCOhost	Redundant with other eBook collections more focused on sports and related fields.

2. **Databases to be Added:**

Database Name	Vendor	Reason for Addition
ProQuest Dissertations & Theses	ProQuest	Provides extensive coverage of academic theses, including those related to sports studies.
Google Scholar	Open Access	Wide range of academic articles, including sports research.
OpenDOAR	Open Access	Directory of Open Access Repositories, crucial for accessing diverse research outputs on sports.

JSTOR	JSTOR	Comprehensive coverage of academic journals, including historical sports research.
PubMed Central	Open Access	Access to sports medicine and physiology literature.
Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)	Open Access	High-quality open access journals, including sports-related research.
HathiTrust Digital Library	Open Access	Repository of digital content, including historical sports documents.
SSRN (Social Science Research Network)	Elsevier	Access to research in the social sciences, including sports sociology.
BASE (Bielefeld Academic Search Engine)	Open Access	Provides access to scholarly resources from repositories, including sports research.
CORE (COnnecting REpositories)	Open Access	Aggregates open access research outputs, including sports studies.

3. **Search Strategies/User Guide for Essential Databases:**

ProQuest Dissertations & Theses:

- **Introduction:** Comprehensive collection of dissertations and theses, including those on sports studies.
- **Search Tips:** Use advanced search to filter by subject (e.g., sports studies, sports management). Utilize Boolean operators like AND, OR, NOT for precise results.

Google Scholar:

- **Introduction:** Provides access to a wide range of scholarly articles, theses, books, and conference papers on sports research.
- **Search Tips:** Use quotation marks for exact phrases (e.g., "Chicago sports history"), and the minus sign to exclude terms. Check the citation count for relevance.

OpenDOAR:

- **Introduction:** Directory of Open Access Repositories, includes repositories with sports research.
- **Search Tips:** Browse by subject or country. Use keywords specific to Chicago sports.

JSTOR:

- **Introduction:** Archive of academic journals, books, and primary sources, including historical sports research.

- **Search Tips:** Use advanced search for precise queries. Limit results by item type and date range.

PubMed Central:

- **Introduction:** Free full-text archive of biomedical and life sciences literature, including sports medicine.
- **Search Tips:** Use MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) terms for more accurate results (e.g., sports injuries, athletic performance). Utilize filters to narrow down search results.

DOAJ:

- **Introduction:** Directory of high-quality open access journals, includes sports-related research.
- **Search Tips:** Use the advanced search to filter by subject (e.g., sports science), journal license, and full-text availability.

HathiTrust Digital Library:

- **Introduction:** Repository of digital content from research libraries, includes historical sports documents.
- **Search Tips:** Use collection-specific search tools. Browse collections by topic or institution.

SSRN:

- **Introduction:** Repository for early-stage research in social sciences, includes sports sociology.
- **Search Tips:** Use the advanced search to filter by paper type, author, or keyword. Follow authors for updates on sports research.

BASE:

- **Introduction:** Access to scholarly resources from repositories, includes sports research.
- **Search Tips:** Use advanced search options to filter by document type, language, and author. Utilize the "search in full text" option for detailed queries.

CORE:

- **Introduction:** Aggregates open access research outputs, includes sports studies.
- **Search Tips:** Use filters for resource type, repository, and language. Utilize the full-text search for detailed queries.
4. **AI-Generated Database List and Comparison:**

Prompt for AI Services: "Identify up to ten essential LIS databases based on research interests in Chicago sports."

AI-Generated List:

1. **ERIC**
2. **Gale OneFile: News**
3. **Library Literature & Information Science Full Text**
4. **Scopus**
5. **EBSCO eBooks**
6. **ProQuest Dissertations & Theses**
7. **Google Scholar**
8. **JSTOR**
9. **PubMed Central**
10. **DOAJ**

Comparison: The AI-generated list included some databases not directly relevant to Chicago sports research, such as ERIC and Scopus. However, it also highlighted key databases like ProQuest Dissertations & Theses, Google Scholar, JSTOR, PubMed Central, and DOAJ, which align with my selections. The AI identified valuable resources but missed some open access repositories crucial for comprehensive sports research.

AI-Generated User Guide:

- **ERIC:** Use for educational research, filter by education level and audience.
- **Gale OneFile: News:** Best for accessing current and historical news articles.
- **Library Literature & Information Science Full Text:** Use for LIS-specific literature and full-text access.
- **Scopus:** Utilize citation analysis and extensive academic journal coverage.
- **EBSCO eBooks:** Access a wide range of eBooks on various topics.

Conclusion: The AI provided a useful starting point, but a personalized approach ensured the selection of databases tailored to my specific research needs in Chicago sports. This ensures a robust foundation for my LIS research, much like building a comprehensive playbook for Chicago's sports teams.