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DI PADOVA

Academic writing, sources and resources for dissertations in English

Academic writing

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Outline

- Introduction
- Conclusion
  - Summary of main points
  - No new arguments or information
  - Tie back to your introduction
- **Quoting and paraphrasing**
- **In-text citations**
- **Thesis types** (claim, proposition, prediction)
- **Editing**
- Language (emphasis, active/passive, connectors, punctuation)
- Academic style and tone (formal language, hedging – adverbs, modal verbs, modifiers, qualifying phrases, qualifying conditionals)

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Quoting and paraphrasing

- Give credit:
  - when you quote someone directly
  - when you use an idea that you did not know before you did your research
  - when you want to offer support for surprising information

- **Quoting** = using the exact words of another person by enclosing them in quotation marks

- **Paraphrasing** = saying the same idea in another way

- **Terms:**
  - **author** = the organization or person who communicated the original information
  - **quoted text** = the actual words taken from another source
  - **quotation marks** = the punctuation surrounding the quoted text
  - **signal phrase** = a phrase, sentence, or passage that introduces the quotation
  - **source** = any published or unpublished work where you find the information
  - **citation** = a referenced source enclosed in parentheses that includes information (author's name, year of publication, page number)

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In-text citations

In-text citations consist of the surname(s) of the author(s) and the year of publication.

If there is no author, use the title (or a short form of the title, if it is lengthy) and the year. Titles that are italicized in the reference list are italicized in text; titles that are not italicized in the reference list appear in quotation marks.

If there is no date, use “n.d.” (without quotation marks) instead.

To imply agreement	To imply disagreement or doubt	Neutral
Marr argues convincingly that sugar is "a terrible energy source" for the body (2010). Marr proves in his 2010 article that sugar is a "terrible energy source" for the human body. However, sugar is actually a "terrible energy source" for the body, as demonstrated by Marr's 2010 study.	Marr (2010) claims that sugar "is not strongly linked to any health concerns." In spite of evidence from the medical community, Marr (2010) maintains that sugar is "not strongly linked to any health concerns." Marr asserts that sugar "is not strongly linked to any health concerns" (2010).	According to Marr, "Sugar consumption has risen dramatically in the past decade" (2010). Marr (2010) observes that the amount of sugar that people eat has "risen dramatically" in the last ten years. Marr's point is that "sugar consumption has risen dramatically in the last decade" (2010).

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Thesis types

Claim = observations we make allow us to draw conclusions. Ex.: *Our continued practice of polluting water threatens to destroy all animal life.*

Proposition = research and observation urge us to propose a new path of thinking or acting. Ex.: *Governments throughout the world should condemn known polluters to prison.*

Prediction = research may have led you to an insight that enables you to predict some future effect you can build an argument on. Ex. *If you don't restrict the production of plastics, future generations will blame us for the destruction of sea life.*

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Editing

- Checking
  - content,
  - organization, and
  - language

- Edit for grammar and spelling:
  - subject/verb agreement
  - incorrect word forms
  - repeated or missing words
  - faulty syntax

SOURCE TYPE	Bibliography → References
(Website)	Adger, C. T. (1997). Language policy and public knowledge. *Center for Applied Linguistics*. Retrieved September 10, 2003, from CAL database at http://www.cal.org/ebonics/eboped.htm
(Book)	Aitchison, J. (1991). *Language change: Process or decay?* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
(Translated book)	Barthes, R. (1999). *Elements of semiology* (A. Lavers & C. Smith, Trans.). New York: Hill and Wang. (Original work published 1964).
(Scholarly journal article)	Barker, V., & Giles, H. (2004). English-only policies: Perceived support and social limitation. *Language and Communication, 24*(1), 77-95.
(Chapter in an edited book)	Bauer, L. (1998). You shouldn't say 'it is me' because 'me' is accusative. In L. Bauer & P. Trudgill (Eds.), *Language myths* (pp. 132-138). London: Penguin.
(Magazine article)	Berry, W. (2002, November 14). Two minds. *The Progressive, 66*(11), 21-29.
(Newspaper article online)	Blakeston, R. (2002, November 21). Why do Britons Waive the Rules? Retrieved from http://guardian.co.uk/education/2002/nov/21/tefl.wordsandlanguage
(Online scholarly journal article)	Klaehn, J., & Mullen, A. (2010). *Synaesthesia: Communication across cultures*, 1(1). Retrieved from http://www.synaesthesiajournal.com/volume_1_issue_1.html

Sources and resources

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Some definitions

Primary literature/sources are original materials. In the sciences, the *primary literature* presents or comments upon the immediate results of research activities. A direct source of information or research, a document not emended by a third party.

Secondary literature includes books, annual reviews, textbooks, and some periodicals. **Secondary sources** differ from reference materials in at least one important way: secondary sources, like reference materials, may answer factual questions; however, they also present background information and summarize results of scientific work so that you can read the full range of thinking on a particular topic.

Tertiary sources provide overviews of topics by synthesizing information gathered from other resources. **Tertiary resources** often provide data in a convenient form or provide information with context by which to interpret it.
The distinctions between **primary, secondary,** and **tertiary sources** can be ambiguous. An individual document may be a **primary source** in one context and a **secondary source** in another. Encyclopedias are typically considered **tertiary sources,** but a study of how encyclopedias have changed on the Internet would use them as **primary sources**. Time is a defining element.

http://www.thefreedictionary.com/Primary+literature/http://www.lib.vt.edu/help/research/primary-secondary-tertiary.html

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Primary, secondary, and tertiary sources - 1

In the humanities and social sciences, primary sources are the direct evidence or first-hand accounts of events without secondary analysis or interpretation. A primary source is a work that was created or written contemporary with the period or subject being studied. Secondary sources analyze or interpret historical events or creative works.

Primary sources

- Diaries
- Interviews
- Letters
- Original works of art
- Photographs
- Speeches
- Works of literature

A primary source is an *original* document containing firsthand information about a topic. Different fields of study may use different types of primary sources.

http://www.lib.vt.edu/help/research/primary-secondary-tertiary.html

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Primary, secondary, and tertiary sources - 2

Secondary sources

- Biographies
- Dissertations
- Indexes, abstracts, bibliographies (used to locate a secondary source)
- Journal articles
- Monographs

A secondary source contains commentary on or discussion about a primary source. The most important feature of secondary sources is that they offer an *interpretation* of information gathered from primary sources.

Tertiary sources

- Dictionaries
- Encyclopedias
- Handbooks

A tertiary source presents summaries or condensed versions of materials, usually with references back to the primary and/or secondary sources. They can be a good place to look up facts or get a general overview of a subject, but they rarely contain original material.

http://www.lib.vt.edu/help/research/primary-secondary-tertiary.html

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Preliminary research

- General works such as encyclopedias and dictionaries
- Library catalogues
- Collections of texts and documents
- Monographs and miscellaneous works (proceedings, essays in one or more books, special issues of journals)

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Preliminary research: how to proceed

- Entries in encyclopedias/dictionaries with short bibliographies
- References to useful books/articles in collections of texts and documents
- Topic, text or author referred to in general works
- Monographs and articles/reviews
- Proceedings and special issues of journals
- Interactive multimedia works

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OPAC

SBN Sistema Bibliotecario Nazionale http://opac.sbn.it

OPAC Università di Padova
http://www.unipd.it/universit%C3%A0/sedi/biblioteche-e-mediateche>Catalogo del sistema bibliotecario padovano:
http://catalogo.unipd.it/F?func=find-b-0

British Library
http://www.bl.uk/reshelp/findhelprestype/catblhold/all/allcat.html

Berkeley ***Berkeley* Digital Library *SunSITE***
sunsite.berkeley.edu/

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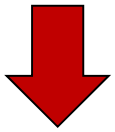
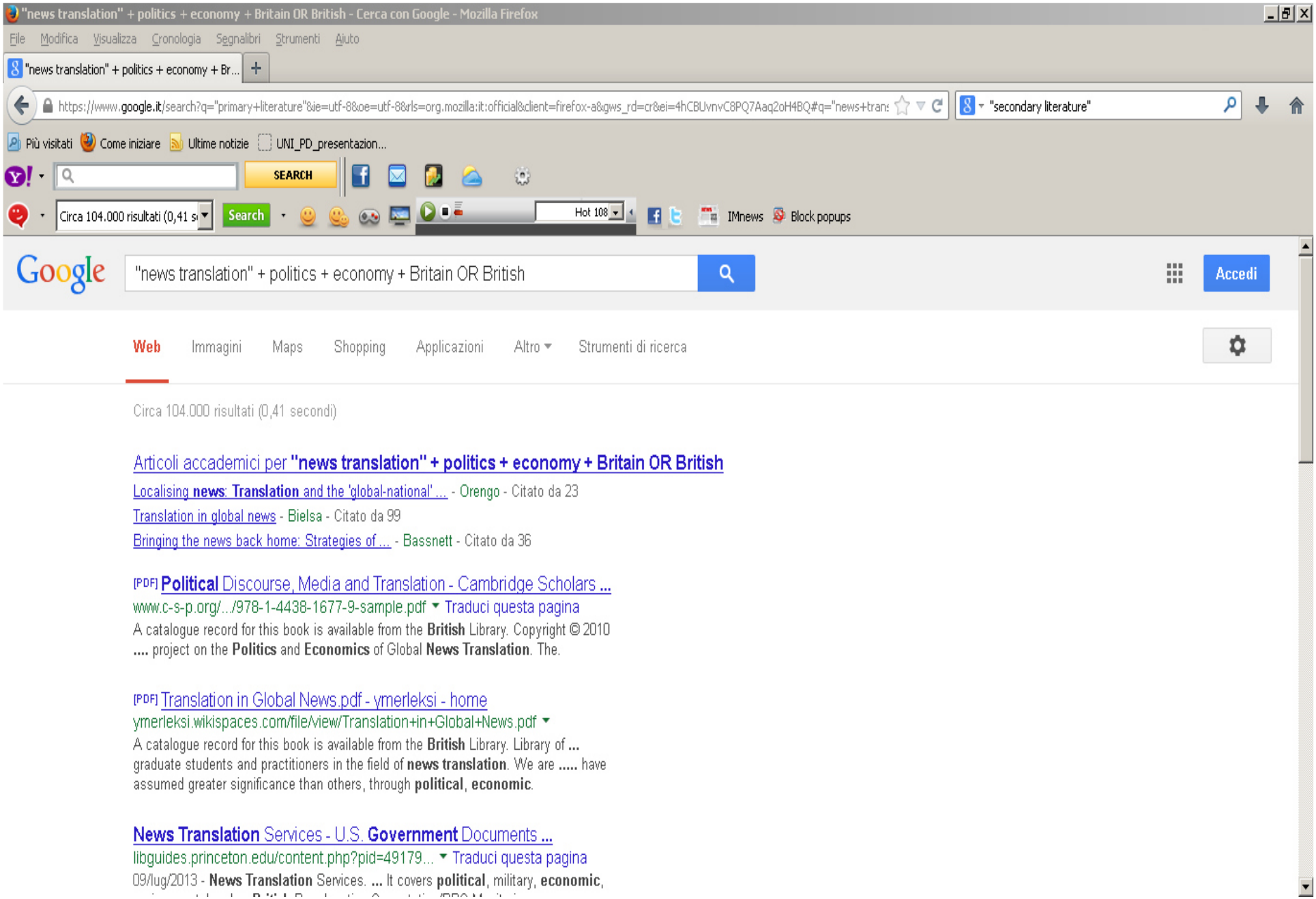
Google Search

- Begin by choosing set phrases or *keywords*: translation, dubbing, subtitling

- Techniques to narrow your results:
  - quotation marks to group words together: **"news translation"**
  - the + sign to make sure all words are included: **"news translation" + Britain**
  - the – sign to exclude words you do not want: **"news translation" + Britain –Bible**
  - use different forms of words if necessary: **"news translation" + British**
  - use OR to search for two different word forms at the same time: **"news translation" + Britain OR British**
  - add more keywords: **"news translation" + politics + economy + Britain OR British**



Boolean operators



"news translation" + politics + economy + Britain OR British - Cerca con Google

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Evaluating sources

- Any website you use should have at least
  - the name of the organisation (or person) who created the site, and some basic information about the organisation (or person);
  - the date the information was posted;
  - the qualifications of any person whose opinions are cited;
  - an explanation of how the information was gathered

- Also look for:
  - the purpose of the site (To inform? To persuade? To sell something?)
  - any advertisements on the site (What is being advertised? Why?)
  - strong or emotional language that may indicate a bias (Even in cases when you are looking for opinions, you should be aware of the view of the site. Some sites with exaggerated language could actually be ironic or intentionally humorous)

Other Boolean and non Boolean operators

- Techniques to narrow your results:
  - use brackets: **translation (scientific OR "popular science")**
  - use the asterisk when you are not sure about some words: **"there will be * time for a hundred visions * and revisions"**

"And for a *hundred visions* and *revisions*" from "The ... - Rap Genius
***rapgenius.com/.../and-for-a-hundred-visions-and-r...* - Traduci questa pagina**
"And for a *hundred visions* and *revisions*" from "The Love Song Of J. Alfred Prufrock" by T.S. Eliot. ... *There will* be *time* to murder and create,. And *time* for all the ...

But if you search:

"there will be * time for a hundred visions * and revisions" Eliot
The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock, by T. S. *Eliot* | Poeticous
***www.poeticous.com/...eliot/the-love-song-of-j-alfr...*Traduci questa pagina**
***Do* I dare. Disturb the universe? In a minute *there* is *time*. For decisions and .... *will*, so ready "for a hundred indecisions,/And for a *hundred visions* and *revisions* …**

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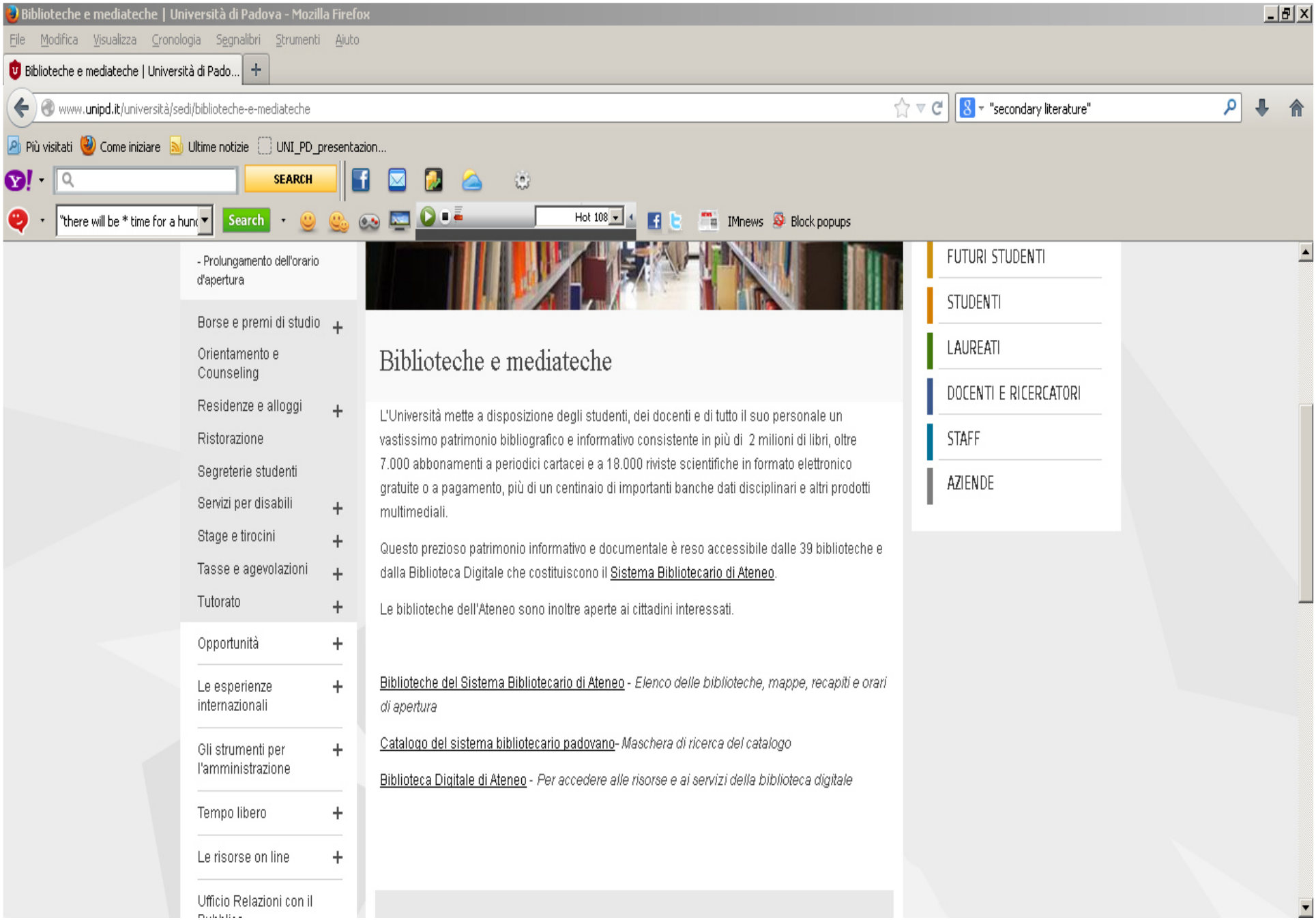
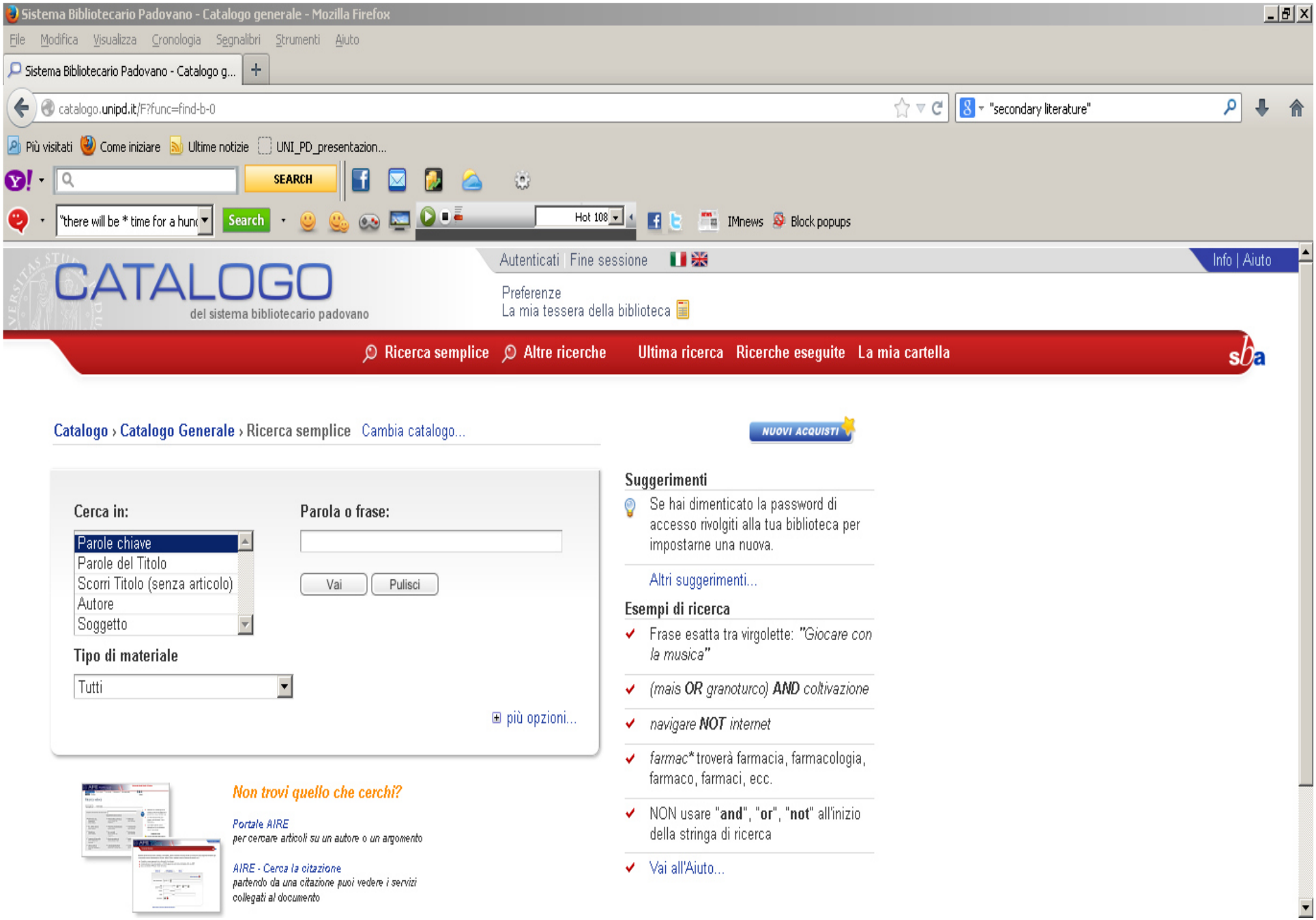
Keep records

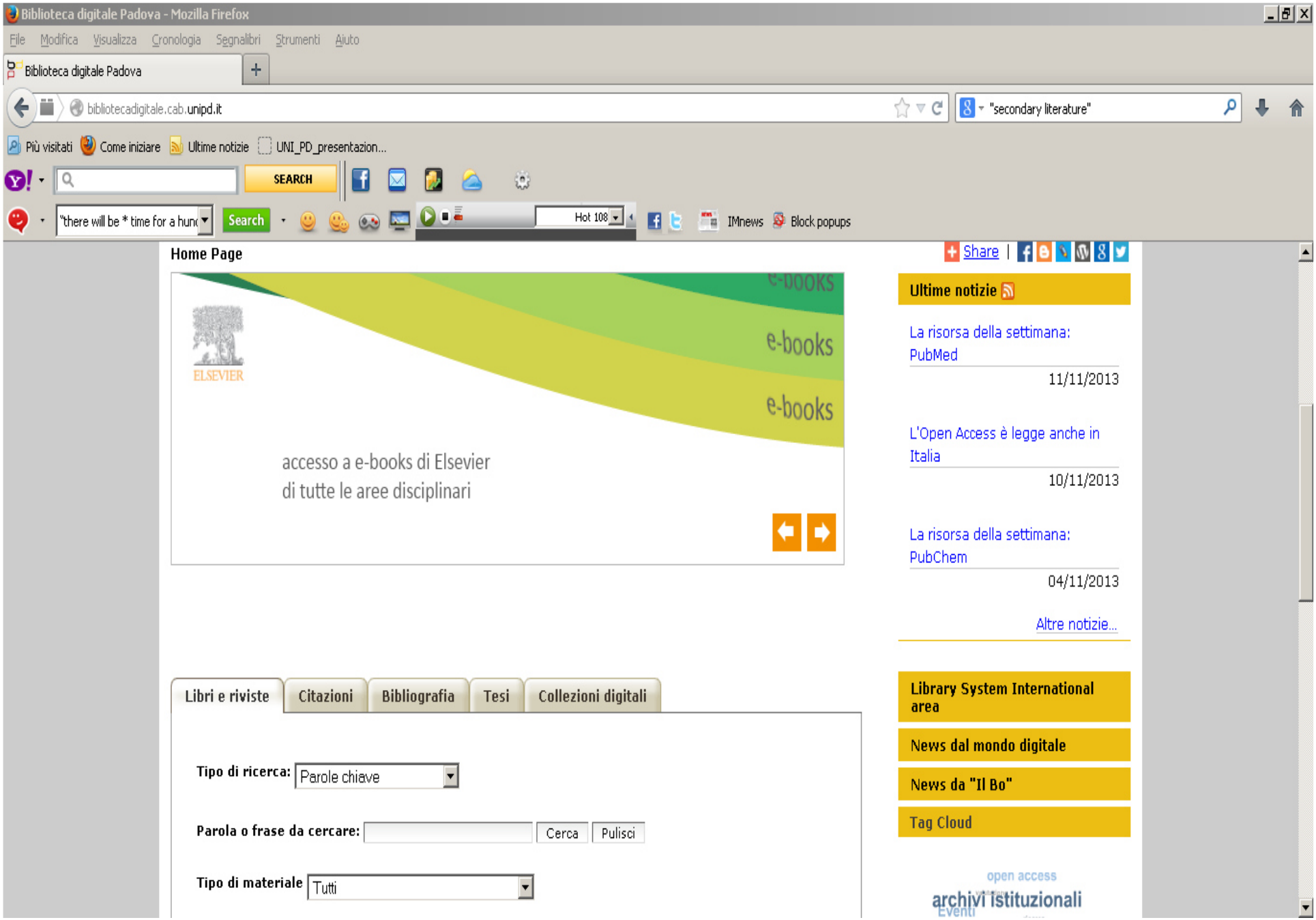
- Cards to keep records of your sources should include:
  - Author or Site
  - Library or Search engine
  - Keywords
  - Title of work or organization
  - Useful parts of text or areas of site
  - Notes
  - (for websites) contact



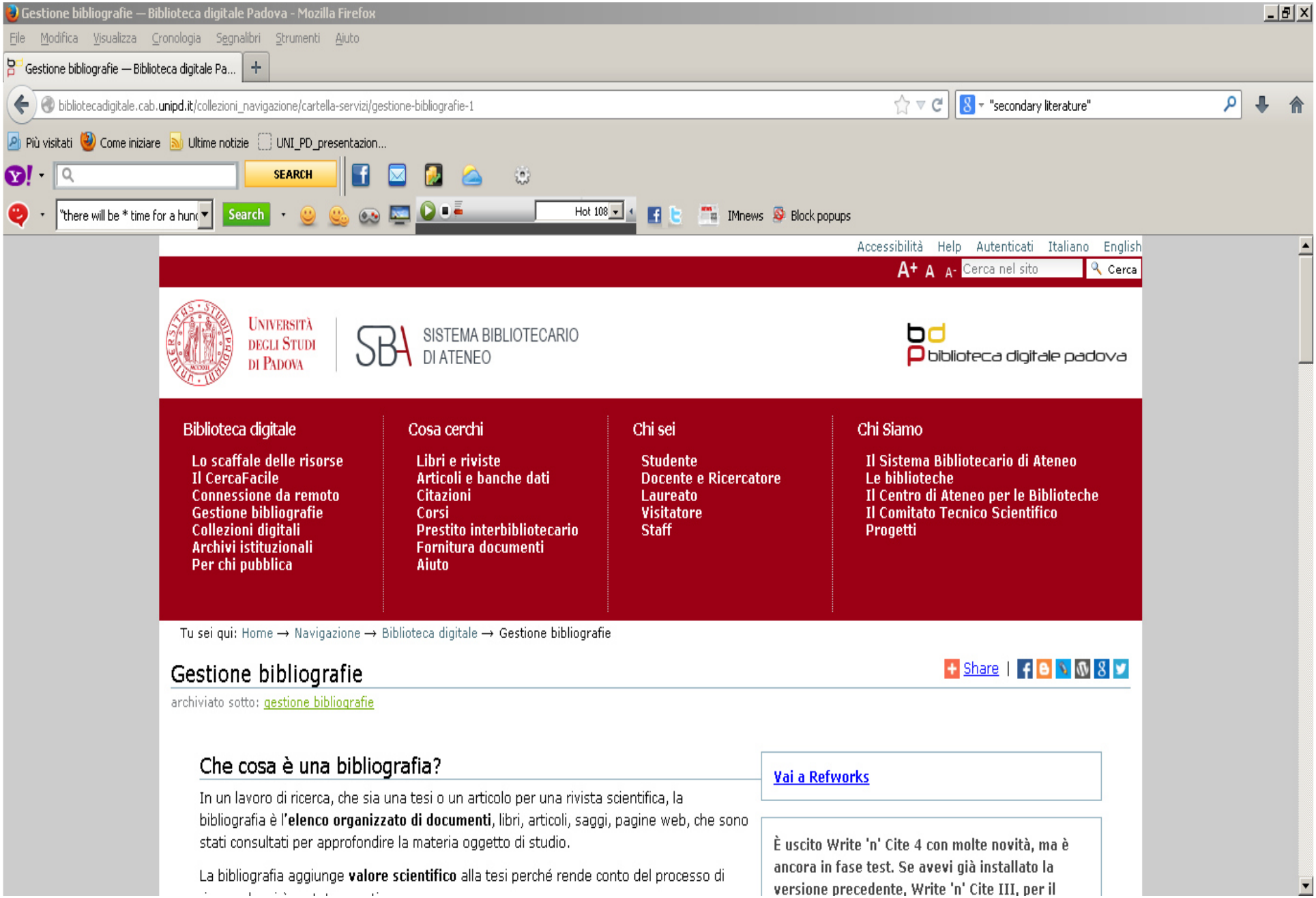
Biblioteche e mediateche | Università di Padova



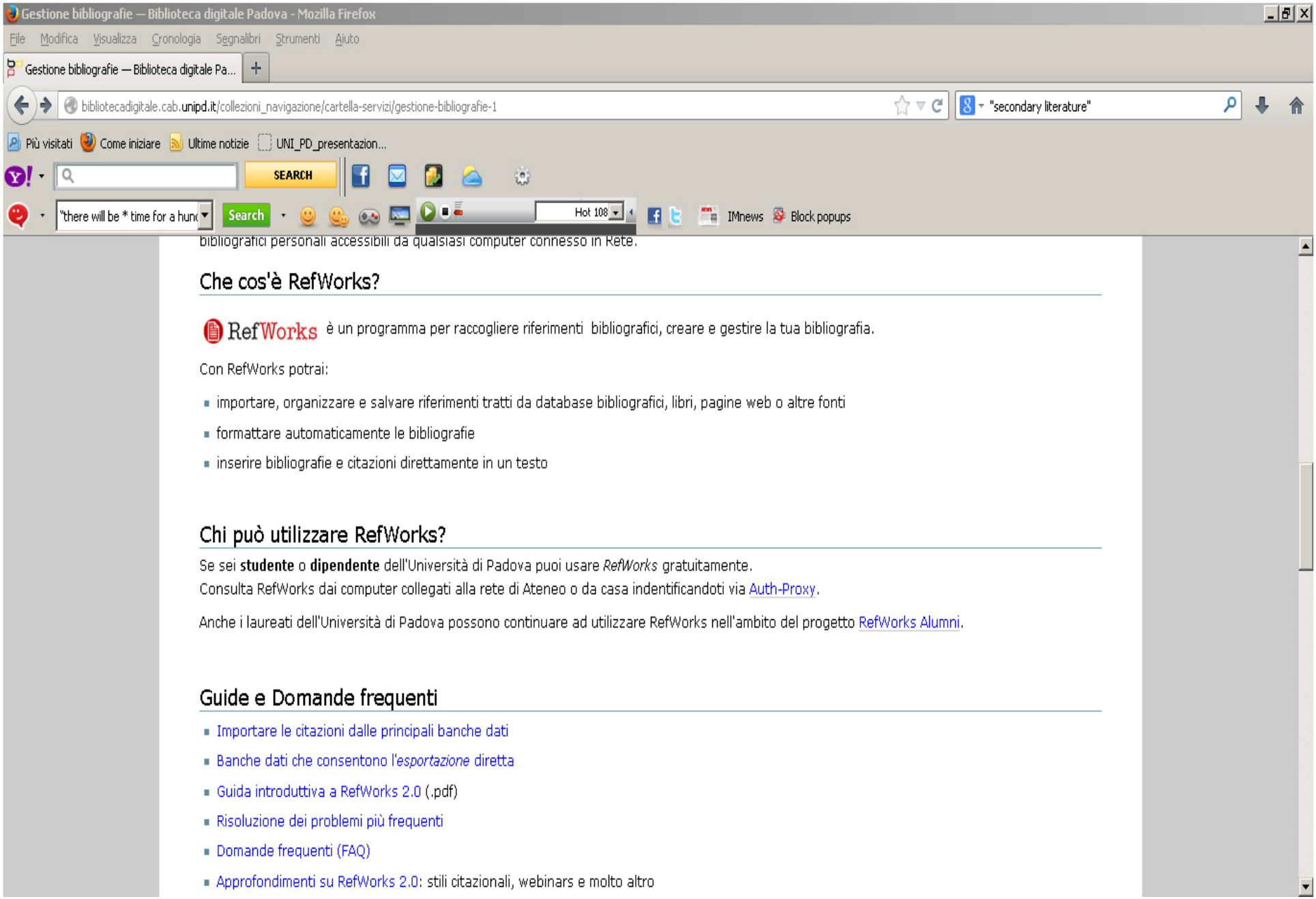
Sistema Bibliotecario Padovano - Catalogo generale



Biblioteca digitale Padova



Gestione bibliografie — Biblioteca digitale Padova



Gestione bibliografie — Biblioteca digitale Padova

Accesso a RefWorks

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Google for academic research

Google Books Library Project – An enhanced card catalog of the world's books

We're working with several major libraries to include their collections in Google Books and, like a card catalog, show users information about the book, and in many cases, a few snippets – a few sentences to display the search term in context. ***www.google.com/googlebooks/library.html***

Provides a search of scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources, including theses, books, abstracts and articles. ***scholar.google.com/***

World Shakespeare Bibliography Online - Mozilla Firefox

File Modifica Visualizza Cronologia Segnalibri Yahoo! Strumenti Aiuto

www.worldshakesbib.org - Search | World Shakespeare Bibliography Online

www.worldshakesbib.org

Search the web (Softonic)

Più visitati Come iniziare Ultime notizie http://avg.urlseek.vm... Hotmail gratuita Personalizza collegam... Windows Media Windows

AVG Search... Search Safe Do Not Track Weather Facebook

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The *World Shakespeare Bibliography Online* is a searchable electronic database consisting of the most comprehensive record of Shakespeare-related scholarship and theatrical productions published or produced worldwide between 1960 and 2014. Containing over 134,922 annotated entries, this collected information is an essential tool for anyone engaged in research on Shakespeare or early modern England. In 2001, the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP) awarded the *WSB Online* the Besterman/McColvin medal for outstanding electronic reference work.

User Guide

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MLA International Bibliography

Sistema bibliotecario di ateneo (CAB)
http://www.cab.unipd.it/
Portale AIRE
http://metaricerca.cab.unipd.it:8332/V?RN=144386966
Trova risorse
Start search: MLA
Click on:

MLA International Bibliography (ProQuest XML)

Start search!

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References

Apa Citation Style, http://www.apastyle.org/.

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Ritter R.M. (2002) *The Oxford Guide to Style*, Oxford/New York, Oxford Unviersity Press, http://elearning.ustb.edu.cn/UploadFile//20111229085006927.pdf

The Chicago Manual of Style Online,
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html

Zemach D.E., Broudy D., Valvona C. (2011) *Writing Research. From Essay to Research Paper*, Oxford, Macmillan Education