Multilingual Research

Getting the most out of scholarly databases
Selecting Relevant Databases

- Make sure database(s) you’ve identified has sources in the languages you’re working with.
- Such information can be gathered from the database description or by going into the database, running a search, and seeing if there is a language option among the filters.
Multilingual Search Terms

- Make sure to use terms in all the languages you’re using so as to not miss a potentially relevant source.
- E.G. In the PRISMA database a search on “Argentina AND modernismo” yields 582 results, while a search on “Argentina AND (modernismo OR modernism)” yields 735.
Things to Keep in Mind

◊ Just because a source title is in one language does not mean the source itself is written in that language

◊ E.G. The source below is in English
More Things to Keep in Mind

◊ Some databases are sensitive to accents, others are not. The best way to figure this out is through trial-and-error.

◊ The library does not provide immediate access to as many foreign-language materials (whether books or scholarly articles) as it does those in English. You may have to turn to InterLibrary Loan to get what you need which may involve a waiting period. Plan accordingly!