How can I use streaming video for research?

The Library world doesn’t exist in a vacuum. We know that information arrives and moves quickly, and it does so in a variety of ways. Research isn’t just about words on a page anymore. The information pulled from good, reliable, media sources is just as valuable as any article you print or book you check out. Films on Demand, located under the Library’s Media Content tab, can provide a shortcut to helpful and trustworthy streaming video sources.

Searching FoD for Content

The FoD search widget, located in the upper left box on the Media Content tab, is the place to begin. Keyword search your topic here, just as you would the EBSCO or ProQuest widgets on the Articles & Databases tab.

Your result list might be a little overwhelming - just like with a traditional database search. In this case, there are a few hundred available videos related to the search term “ballet.” You can review your result list as is, adjust your search terms and try again, or change the Sorted by drop-down to better represent your priorities.

You can also use the filters presented on the right of the results screen. These filters are quite a bit like the filters presented in traditional databases, but with a few tweaks. FoD’s filters better reflect the properties of streaming video, like film type or featured producers.
What can Films on Demand do that Youtube can’t?

In addition to offering search and filter capabilities more in line with traditional article databases, Films on Demand outperforms web-based streaming services like Youtube by offering a great deal of control over just how you use your search results. Here are a few examples:

1. Films on Demand gives users the choice of watching a full title, or skipping between segments for more focused content - like skipping through chapters on a DVD.

2. Films on Demand also presents accurate, full-text transcripts of full videos. Using both a video and a transcript in your research promotes greater accuracy - especially for direct quotations.

3. Much like in the more traditional databases, users are given sample citations to copy and paste elsewhere. Don’t forget to proofread!

4. If a Films on Demand segment isn’t going to cut it for your presentation or project, you can create a custom segment exactly as you want it. Just create a My Films username and password to get started.

5. If you want to share a video with a classmate or add a link to a BlackBoard forum conversation, Films on Demand provides persistent URLs that will lead users back to the title AND segment that interested you.

So… why bother?

Films on Demand offers:
Documentaries ★ Educational Films ★ Performance Videos ★ Interviews ★ Lectures ★ Archival/Historical Footage ★ News Footage ★ Feature Films

from providers like:
TED ★ ABC News ★ HBO ★ Ken Burns ★ Cengage Learning ★
National Geographic ★ NOVA ★ BBC ★ Canadian Broadcast Corp. ★ CNBC ★
A&E ★ Universal Pictures ★ PBS