This guide will introduce you to a variety of resources related to Kathryn Schulz’s “Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error.” The WSU Libraries have four copies of the book at the Holland and Terrell Libraries and two at the Animal Health Library. In addition, Owen Science and Engineering Library has four copies available for check out and the Vancouver Library has one. For more details, see the WSU WorldCat record: http://washingtonstate.worldcat.org/oclc/708738464.

Reference Sources

To find reference resources, go to Griffin catalog from the Libraries homepage, click on the “advanced search” button, and location limit your search to “WSU Owen Reference” (sciences) or “WSU Holland Reference” (humanities/social sciences), and type in (a) general term(s) to describe your topic.

Resource Examples:

- Oxford Reference Online Premium Collection  
  (over 180 electronic dictionaries and encyclopedias)  
  click on Find Journal Articles from the WSU Libraries homepage, click on Databases A to Z, search for “oxford premium”

- The encyclopedia of memory and memory disorders / Carol Turkington and Joseph R. Harris (2001)  
  WSU Holland and Terrell Reference BF371 N55 2001

- Courtroom handbook on Washington evidence / Karl B. Tegland  
  WSU Holland and Terrell Reference KFW80 .W3 v. 5D 2006

WSU WorldCat

WSU WorldCat features a single user-friendly interface to search across Griffin resources, Summit (a group catalog of resources from 35+ academic libraries across WA, OR and ID) and WorldCat (a collection of more than 150 million library items). WSU WorldCat has books, articles, media items and much more.
You can search WSU WorldCat from the WSU Libraries homepage (libraries.wsu.edu). Use the crimson “FindIt!@WSU” buttons to help you obtain the library item(s) you want.

**Relevant Library of Congress Subject Headings**

The subject headings below will lead you to helpful human-indexed materials related to “Being Wrong.” You can search for these subject headings in WSU WorldCat (on the Libraries homepage, libraries.wsu.edu) by typing in “hl:” and the name of the subject heading. An example is – hl:groupthink. In WSU WorldCat you will see not only the relevant WSU materials but also those that can be requested from libraries worldwide.

Below are other topics from the book (with pages numbers as appropriate) – not all subject headings, but all can be searched by just putting the text in the WSU WorldCat search box

Ch 1 – Wrongology
Cultural distaste for error
Human nature and error
Appetite for being right
12 step programs
Pessimistic Meta-Induction from the History of Science
Epistemology
Decision studies (error studies)
Moral and intellectual wrongness
Phrenology
Being wrong versus feeling wrong
Error blindness
The Psychopathology of Everyday Life (Sigmund Freud)
Plato and error
John Locke and error
Martin Heidegger and error

Ch 2 – Two Models of Wrongness
Error as optimistic (William James)
Error as pessimistic (Thomas Aquinas)
Illusions (James Sully)
The story of human error (Joseph Jastrow)
Scientific method
Scientific Revolution (current theories collapsing in the face of new insights)
Error disguised as truth
Normal distribution (bell curve) Pierre-Simon Laplace
Altered states (dreams/hallucinations/insanity and error)
Knight errant and the wandering Jew

Ch 3 – Our Senses
Northwest Passage (John Ross and superior (arctic) mirage)
Sophists (Protagoras) (senses and knowledge)
Blind spots
Optical illusions (Edward Adelson)
Tactile illusions
Inattentional blindness
Letters on natural magic (David Brewster)

Ch 4 – Our Minds, Part One: Knowing, Not Knowing, and Making It Up
Anton’s Syndrome
Anosognosia
Plato (thought on knowledge)
Skeptics
Memory (theories pertaining to)
Flashbulb memories
Ulric Neisser
False memory studies
William Hirstein
Confabulation
Michael Gazzaniga
Richard Nisbett and Timothy Wilson
“Modern Jackass”

Ch 5 – Our Minds, Part Two: Belief
Market self-regulation (Alan Greenspan)
Against deregulation (Joseph Stiglitz, Paul Krugman, Brooksley Born)
Subprime loan crisis
Unconscious convictions (my mattress is solid)
Beliefs are rules for action (William James)
Gravitational waves observatory (general relativity)
Distal beliefs
Theories and beliefs
Childhood theorizing (Gotrick Alice)
Naïve realism
Representational theory of mind (Sally/Ann task)
Doxastic explanation
Bias blind spot (Emily Pronin)
Ignorance Assumption
Idiocy Assumption
Evil Assumption

Ch 6 – Our Minds, Part Three: Evidence
Witch trials (evil spirits as evidence)
Induction reasoning and probabilistic truth
Language learning (Noam Chomsky)
Leaping to conclusions; stereotypes
Confirmation bias
The structure of scientific revolutions (Thomas Kuhn)
No True Scotsman fallacy
‘Cuz it’s true constraint

Ch 7 – Our Society
Suffrage movement (Switzerland example, end of the Landsgemeinde)
Offendictula (Roger Bacon)
Four idols (Francis Bacon)
Truth in numbers?
“Networks of witnesses” (Avishai Margalit)
Homophily
Peer pressure testing (Solomon Ashe, psychology)
Peer pressure testing (Gregory Burns, neuroscience)
Disagreement deficit
Insult effect
Groupthink (Irving Janis)
Abdul Rahman
Group shared convictions are paramount

Ch 8 – The Allure of Certainty
Zealots and zealotry
Evil assumption (extremist religions, superiority-minded racial or ethnic clans, totalitarian states)
Certainty (destroys empathy and imagination)
Confabulation
Ludwig Wittgenstein, Clifford Geertz
Certainty to doubt (Baruch Spinoza)
Doubt and Hamlet
Tergiversate ("flip-flopping," waffling) (John Kerry, George W. Bush)
Cognitive dissonance (Leon Festinger)

Ch 9 – Being Wrong
Revisionist history to fit present (Greg Markus, Philip Tetlock, “1984” – George Orwell)
Changes in religious beliefs, struggles with being between foundational beliefs (Anita Wilson)
Irreversibility of breaking with past beliefs (al-Ghazali)
Hard to go to new beliefs when have great number of sunk costs in old beliefs (Leon Festinger)

Ch 10 – How Wrong?
Millerites (William Miller, Joshua Himes) (the Great Disappointment)
Many hypotheses between belief systems (Thomas Kuhn)
The design of everyday things (Donald Norman)
Investigative judgment (Hiram Edson, Seventh-Day Adventists)
Wrong Buts (time-frame defense, near-miss defense, out-of-left-field defense, better safe than sorry defense (Pascal’s wager))
An apology and a defense (William Miller)

Ch 11 – Denial and Acceptance
Eyewitness testimony (Penny Beerntsen story)
Restorative justice
DNA testing
Classroom altercation experiment (Franz von Liszt)
Denial (Elisabeth Kubler-Ross)
Innocence Project (Peter Neufeld)
Michael McGrath (former MT Attorney General)

Ch 12 – Heartbreak
Divorcees feel deeply wronged and righteous (Raoul Felder)
Irna Gadd
Being wrong in love – common theme
Thomas Nagel
Word-fragment study (Emily Pronin)
Symposium (Plato)
Time succumbs to love
Recognition, timelessness, reunification, necessity (Harville Hendrix)
Accept your partner’s reality alongside your own (Harville Hendrix)

Ch 13 – Transformation
Best of enemies (story of Claiborne Paul Ellis and Ann Atwater) by Osha Davidson
Buyer’s remorse
Whittaker Chambers

Ch 14 – The Paradox of Error
Medical errors, medical mistakes – 8th leading cause of dead
Nancy Berlinger
Honest disclosure
“I’m sorry” laws
Six Sigma
Failure Mode and Efforts Analysis
Open source movement
Splitting – age of development where we see all as right/wrong (3-5)
Borderline personality order = see world as right and wrong (no maybe)
Self-subversive thinking (Philip Tetlock)
John Francis – vow of silence, lessons in listening
Jean-Jacques Rousseau – Social Contract – general will cannot error
Rich Hofstadter – partisanship
Cass Sunstein – Why Societies Need Dissent
Democracy – embracing error
Descartes
Charles Pierce
Acknowledging our mistakes

Ch15 – The Optimistic Meta-Induction from the History of Everything
Wrongness and comedy
Thomas Hobbes – superiority theory of comedy
Incongruity theory and humor – expect one thing, get another - Shakespeare’s Comedy of Errors
Plato’s Republic – art is bad because it is far from the Ideal Form / Divine Ideal – representation versus reality
Tristan Tzara – Dadaism – try not to be right
John Keats – negative capability – live with uncertainty
Suspension of disbelief
Gertrude Stein – lost in art
Genetic diversity (error)
Depressed people – understand the world better than others
Don Quixote – ignorance is bliss
Wrongness and optimism

Notes
Contains references to a great number of sources for further research (346-366)
Articles (Newspaper, Magazine, Journal)

For article searching, first click on the “Find Journal Articles” tab from the Libraries’ homepage (libraries.wsu.edu), next follow the directions below for the article type of interest:

For science scholarly journal articles, use “Databases A to Z” to find these 3 databases:
- Scifinder Scholar
- Web of Science
- Academic Search Complete (all sciences)
- Biosis (biological sciences)
- PubMed (human health)

For humanities and social science scholarly journal articles, use “Databases A to Z” to find these 3 databases:
- Historical Abstracts (history)
- Sociological Abstracts (sociology)
- PsycINFO (psychology)

For newspaper articles, use “Databases A to Z” to find these 2 databases:
- Lexis Nexis Academic
- ProQuest Newspapers

For magazine articles, use “Databases A to Z” to find these 2 databases:
- Academic Search Complete
- Reader’s Guide Retrospective

* WSU WorldCat has articles as well as books and other library materials.
* Use the FindIt!@WSU button to help you locate the full-text articles.

Media

Most media resources (DVD, VHS, CD, records, etc.) are available at Media Materials and Reserves in Holland and Terrell Libraries (Ground Floor). First, search WSU WorldCat at http://washingtonstate.worldcat.org/ by entering your search. You can then limit your search to media items in the “Format” section on the left side of the page.

Resource Examples:

- In search of memory: The neuroscientist Eric Kandel (FilmForm Koln) (2008)
- Love, lust and marriage: Why we stay and why we stray (ABC News; Flims Media Group) (1999)
- Available in alternative format upon request.