



USE A VARIETY OF SOURCES FOR YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT

After choosing your topic, begin this step-by-step approach to research by using sources from each of the following categories.

Step 1 Encyclopedias - Begin your search with a good overview article from a general encyclopedia, like *World Book* or *Britannica*.

Step 2 Subject Encyclopedias - Then, look for your topic in a specialized reference book called a “**subject encyclopedia**.” A Reference Librarian can help you find the best subject encyclopedias for your topic.

Step 3 Current Events Sources – Be sure to look at the books located on the Current Issues Tables in the center of the Reference Floor. Look at all the topics covered in reprint sources like *At Issue*, *Opposing Viewpoints*, *Current Controversies*, *Taking Sides*, *Hot Issues*, and others. Information in these books can help you focus on an aspect of a current events or controversial topic. *Information Plus* is a good source for broad coverage of topics and statistics.

Step 4 Books - Find books on your topic. Do a search in the library’s online catalog to locate a circulating book on your topic that you can check out from the main collection. You can search by subject or by keyword.

Step 5 Periodical and Newspaper Articles - To locate journal, magazine and newspaper articles on your topic quickly, use the library’s subscription online electronic databases. These databases may be searched by keywords or subjects. All current students have access to these databases from home. Also, you may use the print articles found in *CQ Researcher* that is located on the Current Issues Tables in the center of the Reference Floor. *Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature* (also located on this table) may be used to locate articles on a topic that is not current.

Step 6 Internet Sources - Use Internet search engines or directories (like Google or Librarian’s Index to the Internet) to locate additional information on your topic.

Note: An Internet site should be evaluated carefully before being selected as an authoritative source.

Ask the Reference Librarian to help you find sources for your topic. The librarian can help you locate the best sources and **SAVE YOU TIME**.