

Basic Writing 1 **Library Research Methods**

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**** Understand your assignment first, and then find a suitable topic.** A few excellent resources that can help generate ideas for research topics are the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center, Facts.com's Issues and Controversies and others. To get there: visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#1 Articles and Databases** >>> the **username = spc** and **password = _____**.

To find a book (circulating or reference):

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#4 Library Catalog** >>> it helps sometimes to narrow your search for items located on the **Gibbs campus** or to a certain **format, date, and/or language** >>> conduct a **subject, title, author or keyword** search?

A search for **legalization of marijuana** within the **subject field** displays 0 results. Conducting the same search within the **keyword field** displays 17 results. If you have several results, then adding more specific keywords and/or an appropriate subject heading to your search can help to narrow down your topic.

Note: It is possible to request books from other libraries and have them sent to your main campus library!

St. Petersburg/Tarpon Springs Circulation	HF5381 .T2212 2006	Available	Request
Valencia/East	Circulation	HF5381.T2212 2006	Available Request

Borrower ID = Student Number

PIN = Last 4-digits of Social Security Number

Find Electronic Books via NetLibrary: Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#5 Netlibrary** (e.g. Advanced Search for Subject: **spiders** AND Full Text: **web**). (Note: You are now able to search for all of our electronic books (over 60,000 titles) within our main library catalog!) However, using netLibrary will allow you to search within the Full Text of the electronic book.

To find articles in journals, magazines, newspapers and more:

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on **#1 Articles and Databases**. Here you will find several databases. In some cases, you can simultaneously search more than one database!

Biography Resource Center: database of biographical information on over 340,000 people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas.

Try a Name Search for **Peyton Manning**.



Student Resource Center: Contains more than 82,000 biographies, essays, and overviews, full-text articles from encyclopedias and other reference books, photographs, audio and video clips, etc. A great resource for browsing.

America's Newspapers: full-text articles from the electronic editions of record for more than 700 U.S. newspapers. Browse "Hot Topics" and "Special Reports" for ideas. [Search example: Select "United States" and then search in the headlines for **iraq war** AND **troop increase** in all the text within the last 7 days].



Literature Resource Center: single-search access to an assortment of traditional literary reference works, critical information on authors and their works, current journal articles, and other additional resources. Full-text access to biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors from every age and literary discipline.

Academic Search Premier: Full-text resource containing information from a wide range of academic areas.

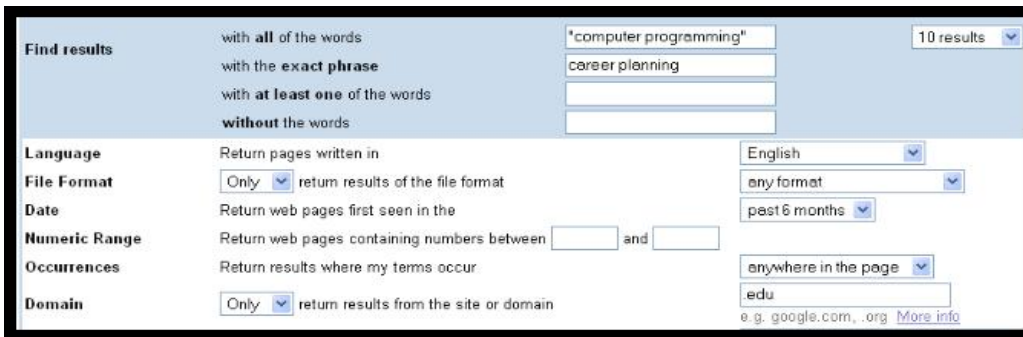
Finding information via the World Wide Web (WWW):

(Note): If you do research via the World Wide Web please consider the following:

- Anyone can create a website.
- Can you clearly determine who has written the article? Do they have subject expertise?
- Is the website relevant to your research? Is it comprehensive? Up-to date? Biased?
- Can the information be verified?



Only **308,000,000** results! Now, let's try an advanced search.



Advanced search at www.google.com:

All words: **"computer programming"**

Exact phrase: **career planning**


Pages written in **English**

First seen in the: **past 6 months**

Only search **.edu domain**. Results diminish drastically

Some things to consider ...

1. Computers do a fine job storing and retrieving information; however, they are only as intelligent as their users. We must continue to use our brains and critically evaluate what we read and judge it accordingly. Computers allow researchers to find lots of information easily, but it is clearing the thickening "data smog" that can be difficult while at the same time rewarding.
2. Try to add content that you may think is missing from an article and ask vital questions along the way. This will force you to think more openly about a topic and to remain focused throughout the research process.
3. Don't forget to cite your sources! Take good notes and remember to document where and when you found the information. Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> and under Quick Links select Citing Sources for more information. Read SPC's Academic Honesty Policy at <http://www.spcollege.edu/webcentral/admit/honesty.htm>.
4. Have fun and enjoy the learning process!

Don't forget to  ... Librarians are available to help every person select and effectively use the library's resources within the library and even in cyberspace!