

ENC 1101 Library Research Methods
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Some important questions to consider:

- What is the assignment and why am I doing this research?
- What kind of information, how much, and when do I need it?
- What do I already know about my topic and can I apply what I am learning now?
- Did I completely answer my initial research question and support it with relevant resources?
- How can I best share my conclusions with others?

Note: If you are struggling to find a suitable topic, then try the Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center, Facts.com's Issues and Controversies, and CQ Researcher. These resources can help generate ideas for controversial and/or argumentative topics. To get there visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> and click on **#1 Articles and Databases**. The **username is spc** and the **password is _____**.

To **find a book** (circulating, reference, and/or electronic) for an introductory examination of a topic:
- 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 or keyword** search?

Conducting a **subject** search for **war on drugs** will display 0 results. Try a **keyword (exact phrase)** search for **war on drugs**. The keyword search will look everywhere throughout the bibliographic record. It also helps to add more specific keywords and/or an appropriate subject heading to your search.

To find appropriate subject headings (Precise, more scholarly research):

- You can click on the **Browse Lists** button inside the Library Catalog and search for other subject terms. Discovering other subject terms can help you narrow or even broaden your topic. (e.g. **subject begins with ... war on drugs** will be better searched as **drug control**).
- Or you can use the four volume print set found in the Reference section and search within the **Library of Congress Subject Headings**.
- Or you can do a basic or advanced search within the library catalog and notice other hyperlinked subject headings.

You can add **Boolean operators** (i.e. AND, OR, NOT) easily in the **Advanced Search** mode. Boolean operators help to combine and/or eliminate concepts and keywords. For example, searching for **legal*** (keyword with truncation) AND **drug control** (Subject) will display over 30 results.

Search by: Keyword

and

and

At:

Exact phrase: No Yes (Applies to all search fields)

[AND = both terms/phrases must be present (this will narrow your search results). You could use OR to find synonymous terms/concepts or NOT to eliminate certain terms/phrases.]

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	<input type="button" value="Request"/>
Valencia/East Circulation HF5381 .T2212 2006	Available	<input type="button" value="Request"/>

Select Your Library:

Borrower ID:

PIN:

What are my ID and PIN? [What about privacy?](#)

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 Ebooks >>> name = **spc** and password = _____. (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 also to search within the Full Text of the electronic book.)

- Try an advanced search for (Subject) **united states constitution** AND **second amendment** (full Text).

Subject

Full-Text

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

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #1 Articles & Databases >>> Name is **spc** and the password is _____ >>> Here you will find several databases. (**Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** and **Facts.com (Issues and controversies)** are great “browsing” resources for controversial topics, **America’s Newspapers**, **Academic Search Complete**, **JSTOR**, **CQ Researcher**, **LexisNexis** et al. are good first choices as well.)
- Or, if the power goes out, you can search a printed index (locate older articles) like the **Readers’ Guide to Periodical Literature**, **Social Sciences & Humanities Index**, **New York Times Index** etc.

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center: viewpoint articles, contextual topic overviews, government and organizational statistics, biographies of social activists, court cases, profiles of government agencies and special interest groups, newspaper and magazines articles etc. (Find evidence to persuade/convince your audience).

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 oil price* AND inflation in all the text within the last 7 days.



Academic Search Complete: largest scholarly, multi-disciplinary full text database containing full text for nearly 4,650 serials, including more than 3,600 peer-reviewed publications.

Try a basic search for second amendment and narrow results by subject and/or by type or resource (e.g., academic, magazines, newspapers etc.).



Type of resource:



Or if you have conducted some background research and have a specific thesis in mind, try a more precise search for second amendment AND crim* (TX All TEXT)



Search alerts are like your own personalized research assistants who will “remember” your search and automatically alert you when new and pertinent content is added. Ask a librarian for instructions on setting up alerts.

Research Tip: Academic Search Complete will generate citations in APA, Chicago, MLA, and other styles!

LexisNexis: quick access to full-text documents from over 5,900 news, business, legal, medical, and reference publications. Try an Easy Search for **“stem cell research.”**



Notice: your search results are organized by resource type!



Although many articles are now available in full-text, you may still find some that are in a printed format (i.e. bound in book form). If the article is not in full-text you will need to determine if our library owns that particular volume. A librarian will help you locate articles not in full text. **JSTOR** is another database that can be helpful when searching for older articles.



“Find it at SPC” using ...

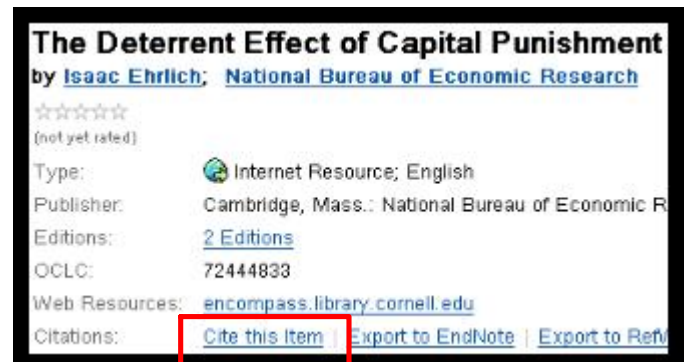


“Find it at SPC” Using Google Scholar handouts are available at:
http://www.spcollege.edu/SPG/WSPCL/Find_it_at_SPC_GoogleScholar_Student.pdf

Research Tip: Within Google Scholar preferences, you can select a Bibliography Manager to import citations.



<http://www.worldcat.org> can cite sources too! Just copy/paste the title.



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?

Use a search engine. **Google** is an excellent choice. Or you can visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> and click on **#3 Search Engines** for a wide-ranging list of search engines. Also, check out our **Subject Guides**.

- Google Advanced search: (all the words) **biotechnology impact** (without) **terrorism** (Domain) **.edu**.
- www.scholar.google.com: search peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, abstracts and articles. Try a search for **biotechnology influence "human values"**



Other Research tools:

Library Toolbar: <http://www.spcollege.edu/SPG/WSPCL/toolbar.html>


LINCC FaceBook Application and other tools: <http://www.lincweb.org/Tools/>

Collect, manage, and cite your research sources with Zotero: <http://www.zotero.org/>



Some more 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  **ASK a Librarian** ... Librarians are available to help every person within the library and even in cyberspace select and effectively use the library's resources!