

ENC 1102 **Library Research Methods**

Professor: M. Earle

Librarian: Chad Mairn

Phone: 727.341.7181

Email: mairn.chad@spcollege.edu

Web: <http://www.spcollege.edu/> (keyword search: mairn)



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?

**** Understand your assignment first, and then find a suitable topic.** A few excellent resources that can help generate ideas for controversial 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.

To find appropriate subject headings:

- 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 ... nuclear weapons**).
- 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 and notice other hyperlinked subject headings inside the bibliographic record.

You can add Boolean operators (i.e. AND, OR, NOT) easily in the **Advanced Search** mode. Searching for **nuclear weapons** as a **subject** AND **iran*** as a **keyword** (* = truncation) will locate 10 records.

Search by: Keyword
and Subject
and Author
At: St. Petersburg College All campuses
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	Request
Valencia/East	Circulation HF5381 .T2212 2006	Available	Request



Borrower ID = Student Number

PIN = Last 4-digits of Social Security Number

(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. **Find Electronic Books via NetLibrary:** Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #5 Netlibrary >>> username = **spc** , password = _____.

Try an advanced Search for Subject: **intelligent design** AND Full Text: **evolution**).



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. (**Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center, Facts.com Issues and Controversies, America's Newspapers, LexisNexis, and Academic Search Complete** are excellent choices.) In some cases, you can simultaneously search more than one database!
- Can also search a printed index like the **Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature**, the **Humanities Index** etc. – they are especially helpful if the power goes out! Don't forget to ask a librarian for help.

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center is an excellent database to browse/search that provides numerous controversial/pro/con topics. (Find evidence to persuade/convince your audience).

Facts.com accumulates facts (1940 – present) that were reported from major newspapers and magazines. Within the **Issues and Controversies** section pay special attention to "Issues in the Headlines." Try a search for **globalization** in the title only and include all available Facts.com databases.

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 **presidential primar*** AND **“property tax”** in all the text within the last 7 days].

United States (798 sources)

Headline	▼	presidential primar*		
end	▼	All Text	▼	"property tax"
end	▼	Date	▼	post 7 days
Sort by:	Newest First ▼			

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.

Can also locate appropriate subject headings by clicking on “Subject Terms.” Try an Advanced search for (SU SUBJECT) **evolution -- study & teaching** AND (TX ALL TEXT) **creation*** Notice the Full Text and Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals options.

Find: evolution -- study & teaching in SU Subject Terms Search

and creation* in TX All Text

and in Select a Field (optional)

in Academic Search Premier

Refine Search Search History/Alerts Results

Limit your results:

Full Text	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
References Available	<input type="checkbox"/>
Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Research Tip: Academic Search Premier 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.”**

Easy Search™ Power Search General Search

Enter Search Terms: "stem cell research"

Search Within:

Select All Clear All

Major U.S. and World Publications
 Web Publications
 Major World Publications (non-English)
 Company
 News Wire Services
 SEC Filings
 TV and Radio Broadcast Transcripts
 Legal
 Blogs

- All Results (980)
- Newsvires & Press Releases (672)
 - News Transcripts (112)
 - Newspapers (107)
 - Aggregate News Sources (39)
 - Web-based Publications (22)
 - Industry Trade Press (19)
 - Newsletters (17)
 - Scientific Materials (17)
 - Blogs (12)
 - Legal News (10)
 - Law Reviews & Journals (9)
 - Country & Region Reports (7)
 - Statistics (7)
 - Magazines & Journals (1)
 - Unclassified Documents (2)

Notice: your search results are organized by resource type!



“Find it at SPC” using Google Scholar.

Google Scholar BETA

Web Images Video News Maps more »

"presidential primaries" history Search

Issue Preferences and Candidate Choice in [Presidential Primaries](#) [Find it at SPC](#)

JD Gopalan - American Journal of Political Science, 1982 - JSTOR

... ISSUES AND CANDIDATES IN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES 531 among moderates on this dimension ... the largest peace-time defense budget in **history** and continuously using ...

[Cited by 20](#) - [Related Articles](#) - [Web Search](#)

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



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

Exploring theories of female leadership in South and Southeast Asia
 by [Linda K Richter](#)

Type: Article
 Language: English
 Publication: Pacific affairs. - 63(4) Winter 1990/1991 : 524-540
 OCLC: 83433875
 Related Subjects: [WOMEN IN POLITICS](#) | [ASIA](#)
 Citations: [Cite this Item](#) | [Export to EndNote](#) | [Export to RefWorks](#)

*** **Note:** 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 edition. A librarian will help you locate articles not in full text. FYI: **JSTOR** is another database that can be helpful when searching for older articles.



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?

Advanced search at www.google.com >>> all the words: **stem cell research** AND exact phrase: **government funding** >>> pages written in **English** >>> only search **.gov domain**. Results diminish drastically!



Some more things to consider ...

1. Computers do fine jobs 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!



Do you have a question? Are you completely lost? ...
Librarians are available to help every person select and effectively use the library’s resources within the library and even in cyberspace!