

Library Research Methods

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To **find a book** (circulating, reference, and/or electronic) for a preliminary 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 **Iraq art** will display 4 results. A **keyword** search will search everywhere throughout the bibliographic record. For instance, searching for **Iraq art** within the **keyword field** displays 16 results. At first glance, it appears that nothing is pertinent for this research project. So, 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 do a basic keyword and/or a subject search and notice other hyperlinked subject headings inside the bibliographic record.
- You can click on the **Browse Lists** (e.g. **subject begins with ... art iraq**) button inside the Library Catalog and search for other subject terms. Discovering other subject terms can help you narrow or even broaden your topic.
- You can use the five volume print set found in the Reference section and search within the **Library of Congress Subject Headings**.
- You can add Boolean operators (i.e. AND, OR, NOT) easily in the **Advanced Search** mode in order to combine/eliminate keywords, subjects and other concepts to your search query. Try **Art, Islamic** (Subject) AND **calligraphy** (Keyword).



The image shows a search interface with the following fields:

Search by:	Keyword	calligraphy
and	Subject	Art, Islamic
and	Keyword	

[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

Find Electronic Books via NetLibrary: Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #5 Netlibrary >>> name = **spc** and password = _____. (Note: You are now able to search for all of our electronic books (over 51,000 titles) within our main library catalog!) However, using netLibrary will allow you to search within the Full Text of the electronic book. (e.g. (Subject) **literature asia** AND (Full Text) **zen**).



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

- Visit <http://www.spcollege.edu/central/libonline/> >>> click on #1 Articles & Databases. Here you will find several databases. (**WilsonWeb Humanities, Grove Music Online, Literature Resource Center, Academic Search Complete, and Jstor** are good first choices.)

- 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.

WilsonWeb Humanities: Subjects Covered = Archaeology, Area Studies, Art, Classical Studies, Communications, Dance, Film, Folklore, Gender Studies, History, Journalism, Linguistics, Literary & Social Criticism Literature, Music, Performing Arts, Philosophy, Religion and Theology.

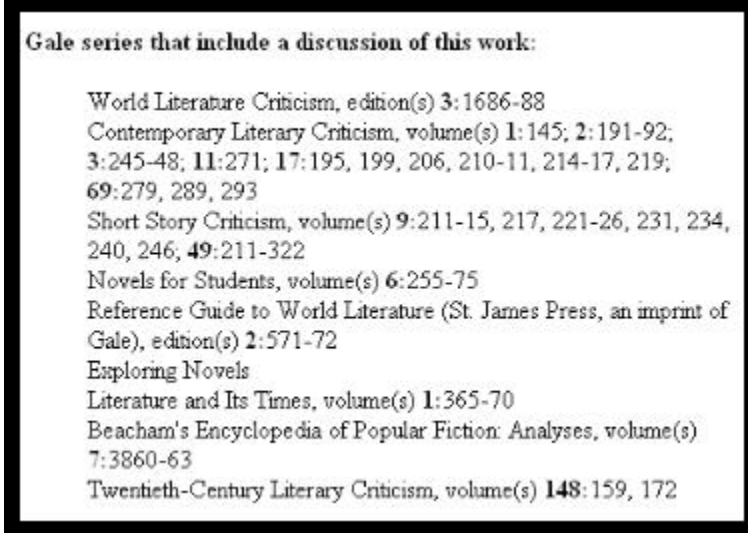
-- Search for **Chinese architecture**. (Pay special attention to footnotes/bibliographies and suggested subjects).

Grove Music Online: "the world's Complete authority on all aspects of music."

-- Full-Text search for **Turkish military music**.

Literature Resource Center: a complete literature reference database that is rich in biographical, bibliographical, and critical content.

- Author search for hesse.
- Gale Literary Index: Title search for Siddhartha.



Literature in Context: Try a search for Siddhartha and learn more about the historical, social and cultural contexts of the actual Buddhist figure that inspired Herman Hesse's protagonist.



Are you writing about a particular person? Try **Biography Resource Center**.

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 an advanced search for (SU) architecture, ancient AND (optional) peru



*** **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 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.

- Try (exact phrase) Buddhist art somewhere in the article's content. [search for everything but "reviews."]



“Find it at SPC” using Google Scholar.



Some 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!

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!