Research Process

1. Choosing and developing a research topic.
2. Finding books, articles, and other materials.
3. Evaluating resources.
4. Citing sources.


http://library.csun.edu/mwoodley/ais304search.html
1. Choosing a Research Topic
Topics Have Been Assigned

- Symbolic Interactionism
  (George Herbert Mead, Herbert Blumer, Manford Kuhn, Sheldon Stryker)

- Social Structure and Personality
  (James House)

- Group Process
  (Georg Simmel)
2. Finding Books & Articles
How to Develop Keywords/Search Terms

Find **key words or phrases** for your topic.
- The word or words that the topic is about.
- The important words related to your topic.

Example: How does someone’s poverty level affect their access to higher education?
- What are the important words?
  
  How does someone’s **poverty** level affect their access to **higher education**?
How to Develop Keywords/Search Terms

Next you will develop a list of **synonyms** for these key words/ phrases.

What are words we could use for **higher education**?

college, university, post-secondary education
Let’s See It In Action...

https://www.youtube.com/watch?annotation_id=annotation_532348&feature=iv&src_vid=1tUqc4gnxc8&v=Ui-iFnS-9hs
Subject Headings

The library on-line catalog uses specific labels for subject headings/topics. It is expecting you to use those search terms.

If you need help figuring out the right words to use, ask a Reference Librarian!
Library Resources with 24/7 Access
Library On-line Catalog

BC Library Catalog
Use to find non-fiction, reference, and e-books
Use Basic “Subject begins with” search
Use Basic “Author last name, first” search
Use Basic “Word anywhere” search

To the Library!
E-books

Some search results for BC Library Catalog = e-books (single user)

Use BC eBook Collection for over 170,000 e-books (multi-user) not accessible by Library Catalog
What Are Databases?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q2GMtIuaNzU
Databases

Databases are searchable collections of reliable, vetted resources, like encyclopedias, magazines, academic journals, and newspapers.

Not part of the visible Internet—Google doesn’t have access to these articles.

We pay for access to the servers that host the database search-engines.
Magazines vs. Academic Journals

Magazines
- General Audience
- Colorful pictures/ads
- 6th grade reading level

Academic Journals
- Selected audience
- Higher vocabulary used, specific to that industry
- Lots of text and graphs
- Peer-reviewed articles
Recommended Databases

- Academic Search Complete
- MasterFILE Complete
- Psychology & Behavioral Science Collection
- Applied Science & Technology Source

[EBSCOHOST logo]

[Academic OneFile logo]

[BIOGRAPHY IN CONTEXT logo]
Getting to the Databases
From Home

Use your BC @ number, **without** the @ symbol.

**To the Databases!**
3. Evaluating Resources
Evaluating Books: Why and How?

It’s important to establish the **credibility** and **quality** of the information you use.

To successfully evaluate a book or eBook:
- Verify the author’s credentials—Are they an expert?
- Locate reviews of the book
- Consider the date of publication
- Consider the publishing company—University Press?
Tools for Evaluating Books & Authors
Tools for Evaluating Books & Authors
Who put the information out there, and why should you believe them?
4. Citing Sources
Give credit where credit is due! Those weren’t your ideas!
How will I remember all this?!

Use the Library’s navigation bar to access our LibGuides.

“SOCI B20: Social Psychology Theory”
Any other questions??