The Research Process

**Topic**
- Formulating and focusing the topic
- Writing a thesis or research statement
- Identifying major concepts
- Identifying *Keywords*

**Library Resources**
- Reference books - Overview of subject
- Books - In depth information
- Journals & Magazines - reports and research
- Newspapers - Current Events and commentary
- Internet - News, popular culture, and government information

**Searching indexes and Databases**
1. Choosing database based on subject and coverage
2. Subject vs. Keyword searching
3. Boolean logic
   - *And* (narrows or focuses)
   - *Or* (expands)
   - *Not* (excludes)
4. Interpreting the Records
5. Locating the information (Full-text online or in the library)
6. Format changes: print, microform, and online

**Evaluation of sources**
- **Authority** Who wrote it and what makes them an expert?
- **Accuracy** Can the information be verified? (Citations)
- **Currency** When written or published?
- **Objectivity** Author, press, or origin of source. Is there a slant or bias?
- **Audience** Scholarly or popular?

**Citations**
Cite your sources using the correct citation format (MLA, Turabian, APA, etc.)

*Citation guides can be found at the reference desk and the library’s website!*