

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!

SWOSU Library
Reference Desk 580.774.7082