

Library Research | Locate & Evaluate Sources

Research Process

- Origin → planning & design → data gathering → data analysis → results → reporting → origin

Literature Reviews

- Review body of published work - ongoing conversations over time
- Almost always leads to some re-assessment of the research question

Identifying Search Terms

- Articulate the topic in a few sentences
- Break it down to main concepts
- Devise related terms

Navigate to a Library Database

- Subject guides or Database A-Z list or Articles & More
- Best to search multiple places

Do a Search and Filter Results

- Refining the search by format or type
- If you have a lot of results – narrow it down
- If you don't have many results – broaden the scope

Evaluate Citation Information

- Check how current the research is
- Look at authors and affiliations
- Read the abstract

Evaluate the Article Itself

- Issues getting to the PDF? - Don't pay to access, Inter-Library Loan it
- Skim before reading in full

Sharing and Saving the Article

- Permalinks - different and better than the link in the address bar
- Email it
- Citation managers - save, organize, and share, then write and cite easily

Identifying Search Terms

1. Articulate your central topic in a sentence or two.
2. Break down the sentences into three broad concepts. Two is not very specific; four is too specific.
3. For each concept or topic, identify synonyms or related terms. These will be your keywords, which can be combined in different ways to pull up search results that are relevant to your research. You might discover additional terms during your searching.

