Narrow your search by (continued)--

Focusing on a geographic area
> *Example: global warming and the Antarctic ice cap; deforestation in Africa vs. deforestation in South America*

Focusing on a limited time period
> *Example: how global warming began; global warming in the last five years*

Broaden your search by—

Considering alternate points of view
> *Example: what about the evidence against your position?*

Checking the subject headings of your best results
> *Library of Congress Subject headings are provided as links in the Library Catalog and in many databases, often near the end of a record*

Focusing on more general issues
> *Example: discuss your issue as part of a larger problem or situation*

Examining the history of the topic
> *Example: include the history of your issue and show how the problem has grown*

Broaden your search by (continued)—

Examining the implications of the topic

> *Example: what does your issue mean for the economy? …for Americans? …for the world at large?*

STEP 6:

Search the Subject Specific online databases using your list of terms, subject headings you found in sample searches, and your narrowed or broadened research question.

Use the Research Guides
http://fgcu.libguides.com **or** choose a subject category to find lists of Subject Specific databases at the Articles & Databases page.
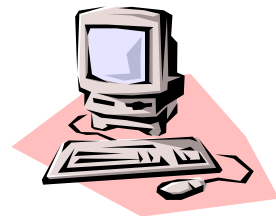
STEP 7:

Search for Theses & Dissertations by using: *ProQuest Dissertations and Theses* or *WorldCat Dissertations and Theses.*

Look at legal briefs in the Lexis-Nexis database. Access these from the Articles & Databases page.

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FORMING A QUESTION & MAKING A RESEARCH PLAN

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Repeat steps 4, 5, and 6 until you have the research you need to cover the topics you want

Make sure you include books, journal articles, and web sites that you have carefully evaluated.

FORMING A QUESTION & MAKING A RESEARCH PLAN

STEP 1:

Write down your assignment. Make sure you understand what your instructor wants.

⇒ *How long should the paper be?*
⇒ *Are there any issues in particular that must be covered?*
⇒ *What kind of research will/won't your instructor accept?*
⇒ *???*

If your instructor gives you your assignment in writing, make sure to bring a copy with you to the Library.

STEP 2:

Read some background information. Check reference books and resources to find out what the key terms and issues are. Check the library catalog or ask at the Reference Desk.

Start your research early. The Library can get you copies of things we don't own. Follow the Interlibrary Loan link off the library homepage.

Use the Library Catalog to find books, encyclopedias and other reference materials. Use subject headings to focus your search. To learn more about subject headings visit http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/

Use the Combined Union Catalog for all SUS libraries to see what the other BOOKS the state universities have that you can borrow.

Use Access Science, Encyclopedia Britannica or Gale Virtual Reference Library through the Library's Online Databases page at Articles & Databases .

Ask the Reference Staff for suggestions. Ask your Instructor.

STEP 3:

Copy down key terms and phrases from your background material--especially terms you see used often.

Examples:

Key terms from the "Global Warming" article in Access Science: global warming; greenhouse gas; carbon cycle; greenhouse effect

Key terms from the "Genetic Engineering" article in Access Science: genetic; genes; cloning; DNA; genomes; chromosome

When looking for web sites, try using *Scirus.com*, or *limit your searches to .edu or .org* to find reputable, authoritative sites.

STEP 4:

Try sample searches in the Library Catalog and in the major full text databases, like Proquest, Omni, or Academic Search Complete — using your key terms.

STEP 5:

Broaden or narrow your search depending on what your sample searches reveal.

Too many results? Narrow your search

Too few results? Broaden your search

Narrow your search by--

Adding key terms to your search using AND, OR, NOT

  Visit http://www.internettutorials.net/boolean.asp to learn how

Checking the Subject Headings of your best results

  Library of Congress Subject headings are provided as links in the Library Catalog and in many databases, often near the end of a record

Focusing on a specific issue

  Example: the carbon cycle and deforestation; greenhouse gases and automobiles
  (continued on other side)