

Research Tip

Tip 1: Start With Background Reading

Look up general and basic information first to understand the scope of your topic. Encyclopedias and other general information sources are good starting points.

Tip 2: Narrow Your Research Topic

Once you have done some exploratory research on your topic, you can start to narrow down your research. Use keywords that have come up during your background research to find more specific resources.

Tip 3: Use Library Resources

Using the library's physical and online collections (i.e. research databases) can help improve the quality of your research. While Google is an excellent tool for finding information quickly, it takes more effort to go through those material and identify good quality resources. Library collections contain more professional books, newspapers, magazines, and resources that have been edited and reviewed prior to their publication.

Tip 4: Get Help From Librarians

Librarians are trained professionals familiar with how information is categorized and stored in the library. They can find information that is relevant to your research quickly. Approach reference librarians for help throughout your research process.

Tip 5: Refer to Research Guides of Major Research Institutions

Many research institutions have excellent guides that outline how to use libraries for research. Here are some excellent examples:

UBC Research Guide:

<http://guides.library.ubc.ca/homepage>

SFU Rsearch Tutorial:

<http://www.lib.sfu.ca/help/tutorials/start-research>

University of Buffalo Library's Research Tips:

<http://library.buffalo.edu/help/research-tips/>