Step 4: Find other resources

Video
See http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/communications/streaming.html

Opinion polls
Go to http://www.libraries.psu.edu, click on “Databases,” then choose:
- iPoll
- Odum Institute
- Polling the Nations

Beyond Penn State
Go http://www.libraries.psu.edu, click on “Databases,” then choose:
- WorldCat and/or
- ACCESS PA
Order items through ILLiad, Penn State’s Interlibrary Loan System, https://ill.libraries.psu.edu

Why search outside Penn State?
If your professor expects you to find “all” the information on your topic, you need to search many libraries. WorldCat is a database of more than 10,000 college libraries. ACCESS PA includes all types of libraries in Pennsylvania.

Citation help
Many databases can create citations in APA, MLA, or other formats. Ask a librarian to show you how.

Also see the library’s site on citation styles: http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/citationstyles.html

Step 5: Evaluate your sources

Currency?
- When was this published or posted?
- When was it last updated?
- Is this up-to-date enough for your topic?

Relevance?
- Does this answer your question or relate to your topic?
- Was it written for college students or professionals? (or for other people with needs like yours)?
- Can you understand what you are reading? Is the reading level too easy or too hard?

Authority?
- Who is the writer, publisher, and sponsor?
- Does the URL tell you anything about who created or supports it?
- What is the writer’s education and profession? Where does (s)he work? Does this make her/him an expert on your topic?
- Can you contact the writer and/or publisher to learn more about this?

Accuracy?
- Is this “peer-reviewed,” “refereed,” or edited for quality? By whom?
- Is it backed up with evidence — citations to other books, articles, data, interviews, etc.?
- Can you find the same information in other sources? How does the information relate to your own experiences?
- Does this have any obvious grammar, spelling, or factual mistakes?

Purpose?
- Is this fact or opinion?
- Why are the writer and publisher providing this information? To entertain, inform, teach, or sell to you?
- Are there biases — cultural, political, religious, or other points of view that cause the writer to emphasize some issues or ignore others?

*The “CRAAP test” was created by California State University—Chico

Research Resources
Step by Step

Penn State Harrisburg Library
351 Olmsted Dr., Middletown, PA
General Information: (717) 948-6070
Research Help: (717) 948-6073
askalibrarian@psu.edu
http://www.libraries.psu.edu

Bernadette A. Lear
Coordinator of Library Instruction
BAL19@psu.edu
(717) 948-6360

For my web site, go to http://www.personal.psu.edu/bal19 or scan this QR code:
**Step 1:** Get advice

*Ask us for help anytime!*

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E-mail: BAL19@psu.edu
Phone: (717) 948-6360

**Eric Delozier**
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E-mail: EPD103@psu.edu
Phone: (717) 948-6373

**Glenn McGuigan**
Library Director
E-mail: GXM22@psu.edu
Phone: (717) 948-6078

**Heidi Abbey Moyer**
Hum. & Am. Std.
E-mail: HNA2@psu.edu
Phone: (717) 948-6056

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**Step 2:**
Find books
(some online; some on 2nd & 3rd floors of Harrisburg Library)

**How to search books**
- For **basic facts**, go to the library’s “Online Reference Shelf,” [http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/onlineRef.html](http://www.libraries.psu.edu/psul/researchguides/onlineRef.html)
- For basic facts on **social issues**, also go to [http://www.libraries.psu.edu](http://www.libraries.psu.edu), click on “Databases,” then choose “CQ Researcher”
- For **other books**, use the CAT, [http://cat.libraries.psu.edu/](http://cat.libraries.psu.edu/)
  - Use the CAT’s “Advanced Search” to look for books from certain dates, or to choose audio, video, or other formats.
- Also try **Google Books**, [http://books.google.com](http://books.google.com)

**Where to find books at Harrisburg**

- **Some encyclopedias**: 1st floor, “Reference” area
- **Other books**: 2nd floor (numbers A-G) & 3rd floor (numbers H-Z)
- Other areas recommended by the librarian

**Favorite subjects in the library**
- B–BX: Philosophy, Psychology, Religion
- D, E, F: World History, American History
- HB–HJ: Business, Economics
- HV: Criminology, Addictions
- J–K: Politics, Law
- L: Education
- M–N: Music, Architecture, and Arts
- P: Literature, Books about Movies and TV
- Q–QR: Sciences
- T: Engineering, Technology

For more details about this system, see “Library of Congress Classification,” [http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/](http://www.loc.gov/catdir/cpso/lcco/)

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**Step 3:**
Find magazines & journals
(mostly online)

**Start with**
LionSearch, [http://www.libraries.psu.edu](http://www.libraries.psu.edu)

**If you need to focus, or need better search abilities**
Go to [http://www.libraries.psu.edu](http://www.libraries.psu.edu), click on “Research,” then choose “Research Guides”

Or, go to [http://www.libraries.psu.edu](http://www.libraries.psu.edu), click on “Databases,” then choose your favorite:
- ABI/Inform (business)
- America: History & Life
- Compendex (engineering)
- Criminal Justice Abstracts
- PsycINFO (psychology)
- PubMed (health & medicine) & many more!
- Other databases recommended by the librarian

**Articles beyond Penn State**
- Google Scholar, [http://scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com)

**Why use databases?**
Databases empower you to search thousands of journals at one time. They also allow you to limit results by date, type of article, & other criteria. Use the “Get It” button to see Penn State’s online copy of a journal (if it exists), check if Harrisburg Library owns a paper copy, or order a free copy through ILLiad (interlibrary loan).

**Some search tips**
- `child` = finds any word that begins with a root
- `child OR youth` = finds either word (good for synonyms)
- `child AND gang` = finds both words (good for linking two different ideas together)
- `sort by relevance` = puts “best” items at the top of your results list

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No one available? Go to [http://www.libraries.psu.edu](http://www.libraries.psu.edu), & click on the “Ask a Librarian” button.