

Rhetoric & Composition 100
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Library Research Services

- **Research Appointments**
 - Meet with a librarian to discuss research strategies and sources for your papers
- **OhioLINK & Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad)**
 - Get books and articles that aren't available at Oberlin
- **RefWorks**
 - Manage your research, integrate references while writing & create bibliographies

Make a Research Plan

- Get background information & context
- Determine what kind(s) of information is needed
 - books or articles or films, etc.
 - popular or scholarly or technical
 - primary sources or secondary sources
- Consider who is likely to produce the information
 - scholars
 - journalists
 - professionals in a field
 - fans/general public
- Determine which sources will help you find that information
 - library catalogs
 - databases
 - blogs or other open web sites
- Brainstorm terminology
 - be flexible and creative
 - how many ways can you describe what you are looking for?
- Search and then re-search
 - learn how to revise your search from each set of results

Find Background and Context in Reference Sources

These sources can be helpful for finding terms and phrases and for identifying other sources and authors.

- Oxford Reference
- Gale Virtual Reference Library
- SAGE Knowledge

Find Books (and Other Library Materials) in OBIS and the OhioLINK Library Catalog

When looking for materials by topic, be aware of the difference between search options:

- **Subject Heading:** searches for official Library of Congress Subject Headings only
- **Keyword:** searches for words or combinations of words anywhere in a record

Find Articles Using Databases

Choose a database by **subject** area (e.g. biology, education, history, politics) or by the **source type** (e.g. magazines, newspapers, etc.).

Find Media Using Databases

Some databases provide access to videos, images, and sound files, e.g.:

- ARTStor
- American History in Video
- Naxos Music Library

Summon is a library search engine for all subject areas that quickly pulls together many kinds of material – books, articles, videos, images, government reports, data, etc.

It's a great starting point for any topic and a place to dig up hard to find items.