

Following the Path of Research

Searching for Information in a New Field

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The Research Path

Starting a research project can be intimidating, when you need to do research and it's been years since you tried.

- So many **books!**
- So much **other material!**
- Computerized **indexes** and **search engines** that everyone else seems to know how to use.
- And **more information** pouring at you **every day.**

It can be hard to know where to start.

The Research Path

The Basic Research Process:

- Define your topic (*and how much you know **now***)
- Basic Background: Encyclopedia articles
- In-depth Research: Books
- Current Research: Journal articles

And I'll show you where to do it all on the Web.

Defining your topic

How much do you already know about your topic?

1. I can write a **sentence** about it.
 - **Encyclopedias: Background Information**
2. I can write a **paragraph** about it.
 - **Encyclopedias: More background may help**
 - **Books: In-Depth Information (and pictures!)**
3. I can write a **short paper**. I'm Upping My Game!
 - **Journals and Conference Proceedings**
 - **Current Research in the Field**

Starting Point for Research:

Encyclopedias

- Broad **overview** of a topic
 - Sections cover **different aspects** of the field
 - Helps you decide **which area** you want to research
- Written by an **Expert** in the Field
- May have a **Bibliography**
 - Books and Articles on your Topic
 - [Check these for even more Information!](#)

Starting Point for Research:

Online Encyclopedias

- Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Color>
- Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy:
<https://iep.utm.edu/color/>
 - written by Eric M. Rubenstein:
<https://www.people.iup.edu/erubenst/>
- Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy:
<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/color/>

In-Depth Research:

Books

Information at Many Levels

- **Textbooks**

- An Overview of a Field

- **Research Monographs**

- Single Topic in Depth

- Usually, these have a bibliography you can use.

- **Conference Proceedings**

- Research Papers from a Subject Conference

In-Depth Research:

Online Books

Online locations for books:

- **Library of Congress** – by extension, *the* Library of the United States, with a (large!) section of books you can read online.

<https://www.loc.gov/books/?fa=partof:selected+digitized+books&q=Color>

- **Read.gov** – a collection of Classics to read online. <http://read.gov/books/>

- **WorldCat** – collections from over 10,000 libraries worldwide

https://www.worldcat.org/search?qt=worldcat_org_bks&q=Color+&fq=dt%3Abks

- If your local library doesn't have a book, this is (probably) the service where they will request it through [Interlibrary Loan](#).

In-Depth Research:

Other Online Books

- **Directory of Open Access Books** – providing open access to **scholarly, peer-reviewed** open access books from trusted academic book publishers.
<https://www.doabooks.org/en>
- **Open Library** – an initiative of the **Internet Archive**, “Making all the published works of humankind available to everyone in the world.” <https://openlibrary.org/>
- **Project Gutenberg** – a volunteer effort to digitize and archive cultural works, with **free epub** and **Kindle eBooks** to download or read online.
https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/search/?query=Color+&submit_search=Go%21

Current Research:

Journal Articles and indexes

This is where Current Research is located.

- After the in-depth material from books, it's time to find **Current Research**.
- Journal subject indexes and online search engines help you locate **magazine** and **journal articles**.
 - Articles are both more **current** and **more focused** on one topic.

Check your **local public library** to see what indexes and epublications they provide **online**.

Current Research:

Journal Articles and indexes

This is where Current Research is located.

- **BASE** – operated by Bielefeld University Library; 60% of the indexed documents are Open Access.

<https://www.base-search.net/>

- **JURN** – A **multidisciplinary** search engine, linking to various scholarly, **free access** or **open access** websites, articles, and journals – specifically covering the fields of the **arts, humanities**, business, law, nature, science, and medicine. <http://www.jurn.org/>

Current research:

Preprint Archives

Preprints: articles being written for journals and conferences.

- **Wikipedia List of Preprint Repositories** – an extensive list, worth browsing in order to find an archive of interest.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_preprint_repositories

- **arXiv e-Print Archive** The site, around since 1991, is a well-known resource in the fields of mathematics and computer science. One of the original preprint archives, other specialized arXiv sites have now been created. <http://arxiv.org/>

Current research:

Conferences and Proceedings

Yet another place to see Current Research from Scholars.

- **SSRN** – provides conferences & meetings a permanent archive, so that proceedings are openly accessible and discoverable.

<https://www.ssrn.com/index.cfm/en/conferences/>

- **Digital Commons Network** – free, full-text scholarly articles from hundreds of universities and colleges worldwide.

<https://network.bepress.com/>

Timeless Information:

Reference Materials

- **The British Museum** – centuries' worth of artifacts and online. They also have a helpful online guide to their collection, here: <https://www.britishmuseum.org/collection/collection-online/guide>
- **The British Library** – filled archives, manuscripts and online collections. You can look through an overview of the collection, here: <https://www.bl.uk/subjects>
- **EThOS** – over 400,000 Dissertations: some behind paywalls, but many available for immediate download through EThOS or an institution's website. One of the British Library special collections. <https://ethos.bl.uk/>
- **CIA World Factbook** – facts about every country in the world: history, geography, transportation, and much more. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/xx.html>

*This is what we -- instruction
librarians -- strive for:*

“You can't teach people everything they need to know. The best you can do is position them where they can find what they need to know when they need to know it.”

-- Seymour Papert (1928 - 2016)

Any Questions?

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<http://www.fiadnata.org/resources-for-research/>

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This presentation is based on classes I taught at the
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