

Twelve Steps in the Research Process

- 1) Come up with search words and phrases for topic
- 2) Go to Library of Congress Subject Headings to find the words they use
- 3) College Library webpage – research databases (for background info)
 - a) CQ Researcher, Facts.com with Issues and Controversies, Opposing Viewpoints
 - b) General encyclopedias and subject encyclopedias (look in index)
- 4) College Library webpage – electronic books to define your words
- 5) College Library webpage – catalogs and search in ‘subject’ field (for in-depth info)
- 6) Get the books, paying attention to publication date, table of contents, index
- 7) Look for reference books with call numbers similar to your regular books
- 8) College Library webpage – research databases (for current info)
 - a) Infotrac with Expanded ASAP and Ebscohost with Academic Search Elite
 - b) FirstSearch lets you pick three databases: Wilson Select, PerAbs, and ArticleFirst, or use Eric for Education, Medline for Medicine, ABI Inform for Business.
- 9) Find older references in the Paper Index to periodicals (newspapers, magazines)
- 10) Search the College Library catalog for the location of periodicals on the shelf
- 11) Google it at google.com, Google directory, or the Librarian’s Index to Internet at lii.org
- 12) Ask an expert, do interviews, check with government offices