Library Research: Building on the Basics

Step 1: Start now! Research takes time. There is no one source of information that is perfect. Finding information about a topic on the Internet is very popular, but there are other online and print sources that contain valuable and reliable information: CSCC library books, reference books, newspapers, scholarly journals and magazines (online and in print at the library).

Step 2: Choose a topic. Check with your instructor or a librarian for suggestions. For example:

> **Too broad:** Exercise (too much information found)
>
> **Too narrow:** effects of exercise programs in Springfield Ohio (not enough information found):
>
> **Better choice:** how exercise affects people with arthritis (actual keyword search could be: *arthritis and exercise*)

Step 3: Background information. Use general and subject encyclopedias in the library as well as online reference resources through OhioLINK to learn about the topic. NOTE: if you are writing a paper on a controversial issue, consider the **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** (find by clicking the "Reference" button from the library home page). To access from off campus enter username: 39029 and password: library.

Step 4: Finding specific information.

- **Books:** Start at the library home page, http://lib2.clarkstate.edu/ and choose the "Catalogs" button to find books and audiovisual materials at the Clark State Library. If the CSCC library does not have the book you need, go to http://www.ohiolink.edu/ and search the OhioLINK online catalog.
- **Articles:** Go to http://www.ohiolink.edu/. The left side of the page has links to *Library Databases by subject, type and name.* **Academic Search Complete** is recommended as a starting place. This research database covers a wide range of topics from scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals as well as popular magazines. Many of the articles are available full-text using computers in the library and from off-campus by "authenticating" through OhioLINK using your name and your CSCC ID barcode. Stop by the Library Information Desk to add your barcode to your library account.

 Web Sites: Start at the Librarian's Internet Index at http://www.lii.org/. These websites are reliable, tend to have scholarly research and are not full of advertisements. The **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** also has access to many scholarly websites.

Step 5: Evaluate sources and include citations. If a book, article, or website does not seem reliable, check with your instructor or a librarian before including the information as a source. Be sure to record the citation information (author, title, publisher, etc.) for each source used. Some databases will give online instructions for how to cite articles and others will include a page with citation information that can be e-mailed or printed. Recording the citation information early in the research process is recommended.

Additional Aids for Research Assignments

Go to the CSCC Library home page and choose the "How Do I…?" button. Click on Library Pathfinders to find detailed information on the following topics.

-Borrowing OhioLINK Books and Videos
-Citing Your Sources
-Finding Scholarly Articles
-How to Find Newspaper Articles
-How to Use LOIS catalog (Library Online Information System)
-Online Learners (specifically for students taking online courses)
-Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center
-Searching the OhioLINK Library Catalog

Please note that a valid CSCC student ID is required to check out library books, order books from OhioLINK, or to access OhioLINK full-text databases from off-campus. IDs are available at Records & Registration, Rm. 220 Rhodes Hall. Online learners may contact the library for information about obtaining a library barcode.

We're here to help! Please visit the library. Contact the library at (937) 328-6022 or e-mail us: library@clarkstate.edu