

Palm Beach Community College ♦ Library Learning Resource Center
<http://www.pbcc.edu/llrc>

Beginning your Research

It is helpful to start your research by reading “background information.” Before you commit hours of your time researching one specific aspect of a topic, try to get a **general** understanding of all the issues involved. You might learn about important dates, events or people. You may get alternative terms for concepts you want to search. General and subject-specific encyclopedias are often a good place to begin since they present an overview of the topic and highlight the most important areas. Websites can give you ideas for further research, and often present information in a simplified, easy to understand way. But before using the Web as a source, please make sure the websites are credible and accurate.


Books

To Find a Book

1. Go to our website at <http://www.pbcc.edu/library> then click on **Books, eBooks and Library Catalogs**.
2. Select the campus you'd like to explore (Lake Worth, Palm Beach Gardens, Belle Glade, etc.)
3. You can now search by **subject, author, title or keyword**.
Once you find an item in the catalog that interests you, you will need to **write down the call number** for that item to find it on our shelves.

Example: This book was found doing a **title** search for **Occupational Outlook Handbook**.

#4 Occupational outlook handbook



Indianapolis, Ind., U.S.A. :JIST Works.
Click on Campus for Availability or to Request item.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Palm Beach/Palm Beach Gardens Career Center Career White 7
	Palm Beach/Palm Beach Gardens Circulation HF5381 .U62
	Palm Beach/Palm Beach Gardens Reference Ref HF5381 .U62

You can find this book by looking on the shelves in the Career Center or in the Library's Circulation or Reference Collection. Its call number (address) in the library is: **HF 5381. U62.**

Databases

While the library subscribes to about 120 print magazines and journals, most of our periodicals are now stored and accessed through our **online subscription databases**.

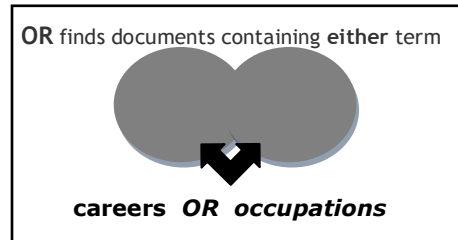
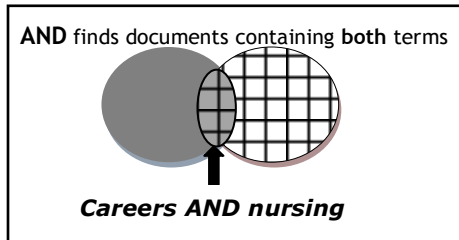
To Find an Article:

Go to the library's homepage at <http://www.pbcc.edu/library>

- Click on **Articles & Databases**
- A new window will open with all of our databases listed. Scroll down until you come to the database of your choice. If on campus, click the "On Campus" link, and the database search screen will open.
- If not on campus, click "**Off Campus**" beside the database name. A new window will open with a login screen.
 - As the **Borrower ID**, enter your 14 digit library card number from the back of your Panther Card. (the number starts with 24901)
 - Your **PIN** will be 4 digits long. It will either be the last 4 digits of your social security number, or 2 digits for your birth month and two for your birth year—MMYY. Example: If you were born on March 5, 1986, your PIN would be 0386.
 - Click on Logon. Another window will open with the message "You are about to leave LINCCWeb and connect to a vendor provided web site." Click **Connect to Database**.

Hint for Searching Databases:

Many databases match the search terms exactly as they are entered. This means that if you misspell a word, it will be searched as you spelled it. If you enter more than one word, it will be searched as a phrase. If the database program doesn't find an exact match, you won't get any results. Most database programs understand "Boolean logic." If you would like to narrow down a broad subject, add a second term and connect them with the word "and." If you aren't sure which or two similar terms to use, connect them with the word "or".



Topics

Topic #1 Contemporary Hero/Heroine

Suggested Databases and Search Strategies:

- **Biography Resource Center (Gale)**
Search: Person's name
- **America's Newspapers**
Search in Lead and First Paragraph for "Person's Name"

Suggested Websites

- **The World's Most Influential People (Time Magazine)**
<http://www.time.com/time/specials/2007/0,28757,1733748,00.html?iid=redirect-time100>
- **Biography.com**
<http://www.biography.com/>

Topic #2 How Has the World Changed Since Your Birthday?

Suggested Databases and Search Strategies:

- **New York Times Historical**
Search: AT(front_page)
Select "On this date" in the date range, and type in your date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy). Click on "search." All articles on the results list should be from the front page of the New York Times on the date selected. Choose one and click on **Page Map** to view an image of the front page of the paper.
- **American History Online**
Select **Timelines** from the homepage. In the next window that opens, type the **year of your birth** in the first box, and **2008** in the second box and click Search. A list will appear with significant events that happened, year-by-year. Use the hyperlinked terms to further explore a topic.

Suggested Websites

- **Year By Year 1900 - 2008**
<http://www.infoplease.com/yearbyyear.html>
- **HyperHistory Online**
Select **Events** in the left column, and select a time period to see key events year by year.
http://www.hyperhistory.com/online_n2/History_n2/a.html

Suggested Books

- **American Decades** (in the Reference Room): E 169.12 .A419

Topic #3 Career Research

Suggested Databases and Search Strategies:

- **Library Catalog**
Search as Keyword: careers and NAME OF CAREER
Search as Subject: personality and occupation
- **Gale Power Search**
Search: NAME OF OCCUPATION and Career and Success
Ex. Actor and career and success
Limit: FullText

Suggested Website

- **Occupational Outlook Handbook**
<http://www.bls.gov/oco>

Topic #4 Just and Unjust Laws

Suggested Databases and Search Strategies:

- **Opposing Viewpoints**
Search: civil disobedience
- **Gale Power Search**
Search: civil disobedience
Search: civil disobedience and Martin Luther King
Limit: Full Text
- **Academic Search Complete**
Search: ethics and unjust laws

Suggested Websites

- **American Civil Liberties Union**
<http://www.aclu.org>
Search: Civil Disobedience

Topic #5 Funding Medical Research

Suggested Databases and Search Strategies:

- **Opposing Viewpoints**
Search: Name of Disease
- **Health and Wellness Resource Center**
- Search: Name of Disease and funding
Limit: Full Text

Suggested Websites

- **Center for Disease Control and Prevention(CDC): Data and Statistics**
<http://www.cdc.gov/DataStatistics/>
- **Medline Plus**
<http://medlineplus.gov/>

General Databases

- **Academic OneFile (Gale)** Formerly InfoTrac OneFile, this database provides article from over 8000 journals in a wide variety of subjects.
- **Academic Search Complete (EBSCO)** Contains articles from nearly 4,500 journals in many areas of academic study including: computer sciences, engineering, physics, chemistry, language and linguistics, arts & literature, medical sciences, ethnic studies, and many more.
- **Expanded Academic ASAP -(Gale)** Topics range from arts and the humanities to social sciences, science, and technology. Access scholarly journals, news magazines, and newspapers - many with full text and images.
- **Gale Power Search** Offers users the ability to search with a single query, one, several or all of the available Thomson Gale databases.
- **General OneFile (Gale)** [On Campus](#) | [Off Campus](#) | [Tutorial](#)
Provides access to periodical and news content as well as indexing from a variety of general and specialized journals - from the New York Times.
- **General Reference Center Gold (Gale)** [On Campus](#) | [Off Campus](#) | [Tutorial](#)
Includes national news magazines, encyclopedias, core business journals, Knight-Ridder/Tribune News Service newspaper articles, more than 15 reference books, and more than 2,000 titles, including 1,200 in full text.
- **Omnifile Full Text Mega (Wilson)** Offers full text periodicals, along with article abstracts and indexing, covering business, education, science, social sciences, art, humanities and plus popular magazines.

Citing your Sources:

- **The Bedford Handbook**, by Diana Hacker : Copies in Circulation and Reference: PE1408 H277, and also at the Reference Desk
- **The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers**, by Joseph Gibaldi Copies in Circulation and Reference LB2369 .G53, and also at Reference Desk
- **Noodletools**: a software tool which helps format a bibliography (Works Cited page) in either MLA or APA style
- **Research and Documentation Online:: Humanities**
http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/p04_c08_o.html