

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

Beginning your Research

It is often helpful to start your research by reading “background information” on your topic. 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. General and subject-specific encyclopedias are often a good place to begin because they present overviews and highlight the most important areas of a topic. 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.

Databases

To Find an Article:

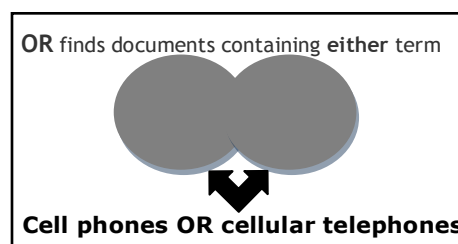
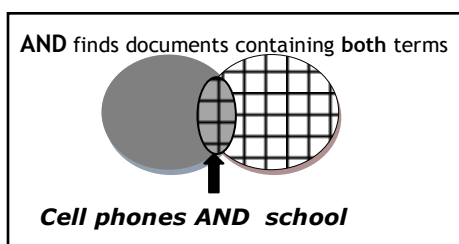
To Find an Article:

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

1. Click on **Articles & Databases**
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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”.



Assignment

Topic #1: Issues & Controversies Essay

Suggested Databases

- **Issues & Controversies**
Browse “Constitution in Debate” or “Pro and Con” Sections
- **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center**
Search broad search term, Look at the Viewpoint Tab for two essays from opposing sides of the issue.
- **New York Times**
Search: All Text: search term(s)
Date: past three months

Topic #2: 1984 in 2008

Suggested Databases

For Background Information on Orwell’s 1984
Search: Orwell and 1984

- **Literary Reference Center (EBSCO)**
- **Literature Resource Center (Gale)**

For Background information on topics:

- **American History Online**

For Topic search:

- **New York Times**
- **Academic Search Complete (EBSCO)**
- **Gale Power Search(Gale)**
- **Omnifile Mega Edition (Wilson)**
- **General Reference Center Gold (Gale)**

Topic #3: Short Story or Drama Essay

Suggested Databases:

For Background information on the short story or play:

- **Virtual Reference Center**
To search for a specific title, click on the "+" beside “Literature.” If you are searching for a specific short story, choose any volume of *Short Stories for Students*, and “search within this publication” For the title of your short story. If you are searching for a play, choose any volume of *Drama for Students* and “search within this publication” for the title of your play. (Not all stories or plays may be included in these series.)

For work analysis and critical reviews

- **Literary Reference Center (EBSCO)**
- **Literature Resource Center (Gale)**
- **JStor**

Search:

TITLE OF WORK and AUTHOR NAME

TITLE OF WORK and point of view

TITLE OF WORK and characterization

TITLE OF WORK and plot