

SEARCH STRATEGIES

Branching

Branching is the process of finding related, broader, and narrower areas of research for your specific topic. You can then research these areas further to find additional sources.

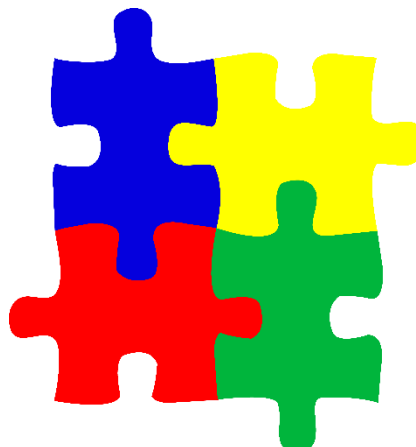


Search Strategies

1. Search with a variety of 1-2 word keywords or word phrases that get to the core of your issue. Searching different combinations of keywords allows you to reach all the different aspects of your topic.
2. Use AND between different search terms to narrow your results to include only those results that contain both search terms.
3. Use the options and limiters of each database and the search box to limit by type and format to get only the results you want.
4. Also, consider questions around your research topic that might also give evidence to your arguments.

Puzzling

You will seldom get a resource that provides all the information you need for research. Instead, you will have to weave a complete paper using a variety of sources which each tell a piece of the puzzle.



Remember:

You can check out books, videos, and other resources with your student ID.

&

You can access all of our online databases and resources both on-campus and off-campus by logging in with your MEID username and password.

&

Librarians are happy to assist you both in the library and through the Ask-A-Librarian link on the library home page .

 **GCC Libraries**

GCC LIBRARY

623-845-3112

<http://lib.gccaz.edu/lmc/>

TWO WAYS TO SEARCH

Searching the Library Databases

The screenshot shows a navigation menu on the left with the following items: **Library Databases** (highlighted with a blue and orange border), Classic Catalog, Guides & Help, Faculty Services, GCC Archives, and a link for *Find a Research Guide...* with a dropdown menu labeled 'Select a Subject...'. To the right is the 'One Search' search box with tabs for 'One Search', 'Find Articles', 'Find Books', 'Video/Music', and 'Journal Finder'. The search box contains the text 'SEARCH FOR ARTICLES, BOOKS, VIDEOS, AND MORE', a 'Keyword' dropdown, a text input field 'Enter Search Terms Here. . .', and a 'Search' button. Below the input field are radio buttons for 'All', 'Online Items', 'Physical Items', 'EBSCO', and a checked 'Exclude News' option.

The first way we searched for library content was through our online databases. Databases are collections of articles or online content, which are typically arranged by topic/subject or information type. Access the databases through the menu item to the left of the One Search searchbox.

Searching through Issues Databases

To get to the Issues Databases, go to the *Databases Menu item* to the left of the One Search searchbox. Then, find the “Contemporary Issues” category on the list of databases. These databases are excellent starting sources for current and controversial topics.

Contemporary Issues

- Issues and Controversies
- Opposing Viewpoints
- CQ Researcher
- Gale Virtual Reference Library
- PBS Video
- [Show More...](#)

Searching through the Library One Search Box

The screenshot shows the 'One Search' search box with tabs for 'One Search', 'Find Articles', 'Find Books', 'Video/Music', and 'Journal Finder'. The search box contains the text 'SEARCH FOR ARTICLES, BOOKS, VIDEOS, AND MORE', a 'Keyword' dropdown, a text input field 'Enter Search Terms Here. . .', and a 'Search' button. Below the input field are radio buttons for 'All', 'Online Items', 'Physical Items', 'EBSCO', and a checked 'Exclude News' option.

The second way we searched for library content was through the library search box. This search box searches our books and video catalog along with most of our online database content. Tabs at the top of the search box and the radio buttons at the bottom of each tab allow one to quickly and easily narrow by information type.