

What resources should you use?

Your librarian will discuss the different resources available to you through the CSI library and elsewhere, and how they can help with your research. It is important to think about which resources will provide reliable information and will help to answer your research question. For more details on selecting resources, use the guide “Comparing and Evaluating Information Sources”, which can be found on the Writing for Research website.

- *Library reference materials*: Encyclopedias, almanacs, dictionaries, text books, and other materials that provide basic information on various topics. Information is considered reliable.
- *Library books*: A wide range of books are available for checkout at your library. Whether a particular book is a good resource for your paper depends the content, intention, and reliability of the book.
- *Scholarly journal articles*: Articles written by professional scholars and published in academic journals. There are many different journal articles on a wide range of topics available through your library.
- *Journalism*: Newspapers, magazines and online news sources. Journalism can vary in what it covers and how trustworthy it is, but can be useful depending on the quality of the publication and your research topic. However, you will probably need to use academic resources in your research as well.
- *Wikipedia*: A popular online community-edited encyclopedia. Though it usually provides reliable information, it should not be cited in a research paper because of the possibility of mistakes and misinformation.
- *Blogs and websites*: Blogs and websites are very diverse. Before you use information posted on the internet, consider who wrote the information, the purpose of the blog or website, and whether they provide evidence or citations to support any claims.

Based on your research question and discussion from your librarian, which of these resource types do you think are best to use for your paper, and why? Write a short response below. This will help keep you on track when you begin searching for resources.

How can you locate and access resources?

The CSI library website allows you to search for a wide variety of resources. The following activity will give you the opportunity to try finding some resources for yourself.

1. Break into small groups. Your instructor or librarian may ask you to look for a specific type of resource (a book, an article, etc.). Otherwise, decide what kind of resource you will look for as a group.
2. Navigate to the CSI Library website (<http://www.library.csi.cuny.edu/>). On the left-hand side you will see several options. The first three options (listed below) will probably be the most useful to you. You can also search under “Journals” to look for a specific periodical by name, or “Media” if you are looking for non-print resources.

OneSearch. This is a combined search that returns results from the CUNY library catalogue, a large index of articles, and the library’s digital collections. This is a great place to begin your search.

Books. This option searches the CUNY library catalogue. This search is also performed as part of OneSearch. An advanced search is possible by clicking the link under the search box.

Articles. This option returns OneSearch results for academic and journalistic articles. To get more specialized results, consider searching a database. There are links above the search box that will let you access specific databases. For academic articles, you might want to start with a large database like Academic Search Complete or JSTOR.

3. Following your librarian’s instructions, make a search using one or more of the options above. Before you begin, write down some keywords that are specific to your research question. Try using search terms in different combinations. Feel free to ask your librarian or instructor for help.

4. Select one or two results from your search. Write down the title, author, date of publication, why you selected it and how you can access it. The first line below is an example. Books can be located by call number. Journal articles can be accessed at the library, if they are shelved there, or often as a PDF file, if the article is available online.

<u>Title, Author & Date</u>	<u>Why selected?</u>	<u>How to access?</u>
Benjamin Franklin and the American Revolution. Dull, Jonathan R., 2010	Need background on Ben Franklin	Stacks, E302.6.F8 D848 2010

5. Use any remaining time at today’s session to locate some additional resources for your paper, or to ask your librarian any remaining questions.

Title, Author & Date

Why selected?

How to access?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What now?

Writing a research paper is a process, and you will almost certainly be accessing library resources multiple times in the course of writing. Your paper will change as you develop it, and so will the information you need. It may be useful to keep an outline on hand to help keep you on track as your paper develops. The guide “Using Outlines to Guide Research” can help with this, and is available on the [Writing for Research](#) website.

You may discover that a certain resource you found is not as useful as you hoped, that you need additional or different information, or you may learn about a useful resource you did not know about before. With the skills you learned today, you should be able to find many useful resources on your own, but you may also want to get the help of a reference librarian. You can make an appointment to speak with a librarian about your research and they can direct you to some useful resources you may not have found on your own.

What questions do you have?

If you have any remaining questions today, please make a point to ask your librarian. If you think of something else you would like to know about after this session, either about library services or about your research topic, write it down below. You will always have the opportunity to ask additional questions and find additional resources on return visits to the library. If you make an appointment to meet with a librarian, be sure to come prepared with some specifics about what you are looking for.
