ESL RESEARCH GUIDE
HTTP://RESEARCHGUIDES.LIBRARY.YORKU.CA/ESL

SEARCH STRATEGY

Identify the main concepts in your topic to get your keywords

Use concise and concrete keywords

Avoid vague terms
- E.g. challenges, advantages, disadvantages

Think about synonyms for your keywords
- E.g. Aboriginal -> Indigenous, Native Americans, First Nations, etc.

AND = Combine different keywords to narrow down your search.

E.g. Aboriginal AND Self-government AND Canada

OR = Include similar (i.e. synonyms) keywords to broaden your search

E.g. Aboriginal OR First Nations OR Indigenous

" " = Use the double quotation marks to search multiple words as a phrase

E.g. "Charter of Rights"

NARROWING DOWN A TOPIC

Explore
- Use encyclopedias, dictionaries, other reference materials

Time Period
- Historical or contemporary?

Geographic Region
- Are you focusing on specific country, province/state, city, etc.?

Key Groups
- E.g. women, men, children, etc.

Aspects or Concepts
- Add another distinct concept related to your topic

Point of View
- Cultural perspective, political perspective, legal perspective, etc.

REFERENCE SOURCES

Canadian Encyclopedia
Oxford Reference Online
Encyclopedia of Canada’s Peoples

Access these encyclopedias at the following link:
FINDING BOOKS IN THE LIBRARY CATALOGUE

Visit the following link for detailed steps on how to find a book in the York U library catalogue:


FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES IN A DATABASE

Visit the following link for detailed steps on how to find scholarly journal articles in a database:


RECOMMENDED DATABASES

- ProQUEST
- Canadian Business & Current Affairs (CBCA)
- America: History & Life
- ERIC (Education database)
- Environment Complete

HOW TO IDENTIFY A SCHOLARLY BOOK

Key indicators:
- Scholarly/Academic/University publisher
- Authored by a professor or researcher in the field
- Reference list at the end of the chapter or book
- Technical, discipline specific language

APA STYLE

Footnotes & Bibliographies Guide
http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/styleguides

Click on the APA tab in the guide and consult the following recommended resources:

- APA Style Overview (SPARK – Student Papers & Academic Research Kit)
- Purdue OWL: APA

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

An annotated bibliography is an alphabetical list of research sources (e.g. books, articles, etc.) with a concise summary of the content and an assessment of its relevance. Annotated bibliographies are often assigned at the beginning of a larger project.

Resource:

Academic Writing Guide
http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/awg

- Click on the Annotated Bibliography tab for details and examples

NEED RESEARCH HELP?

- Get help in-person at the Research Desk
  Scott Library, 2nd Floor

- Chat online with a Librarian
  - Click the "Ask & Services" tab on the library home page to access the chat

- Email: scottref@yorku.ca

- Phone: 416-736-2100 x55150 (Option 3)