

### Defining a Topic: Developing a Research Question

Often, identifying a good research question from a general topic is a difficult topic. This set of web pages will help you to focus in on a topic.

- Road to Research Tutorial - <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/>. Module: *Starting Points*. Section: *Topics*.
- 10 Ways to Get Started on a Research Paper - <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/10ways2start/index.htm>.
- How to Narrow or Broaden Your Topic - <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/topic/index.htm>

### Getting Started with Research: Identifying What Types of Resources to Use & Accessing Info.

These web pages will help you identify the types of resources you might want to use in your paper and shows you how to start at the UCLA Library's homepage, the portal for doing research.

- Selecting the Right Source - <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/selectsource/index.htm>.
- Road to Research Tutorial - <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/>. Module: *Starting Points*. Section: *Tools*.
  - UCLA Library Homepage, <http://www2.library.ucla.edu/>
    - *Search & Find* tab. For **Books**: *UCLA Library Catalog or Other Catalogs links*. For **Articles**: *Article Databases* → *Frequently Used Databases or Databases by Subject Area*. *Google Scholar & More*: <http://www2.library.ucla.edu/googlescholar/searchengines.cfm>. For background information (e.g. encyclopedias, etc.) - *E-Resources*.

### Basic Search Strategies

This section points you to a web page that will help you review different types of sources, use Boolean Operators/Search connectors effectively and will show you how to do basic searches for books and articles.

- Dissecting A Database: Teaching Yourself How to Search. <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/biomed/quickguides/dissectingdb.html> This helpful web page shows you how to effectively search unfamiliar databases.
- How to Read a Citation - <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/citation.htm>. With many types of information available (e.g. books, articles, essays/chapters in books, conference proceedings, dissertations), it is important to understand what information type you are retrieving in a search. Test yourself on this concept: <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/classes/sociology1/whichiswhich.htm>
- Road to Research Tutorial - <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/>. Module: *Find It* Do you know how to use Search Connectors or Boolean Operators to create a useful search statement for searching in scholarly search engines. Learn the basics for searching the Library Catalog or one popular article database [Expanded Academic ASAP](#)
- College Library's *Find Books* or *Find Articles By Subject* web pages provides a short workable list to get you started in the right database. <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/>

### Doing Research in Disciplines

There are some great books that guide you on how to do research and write a paper. Some are for general use, others focus in on a specific discipline. Here is a select list of some that are used in classes at UCLA. For more examples, do a SUBJECT search in the UCLA Library Catalog:

## UCLA LIBRARY

- For general guides; *Report writing handbooks manuals*
- For discipline-based books: *[your discipline] research handbooks*

### Examples:

- Hacker, Diana. Rules for Writers. YRL: PE1408 .H277 2004
- Hacker, Diana. Writers Reference. College Library, YRL and available online: PE1408 .H2778 2003
- Hairston, Maxine. The Scott Foresman handbook for writers
- Johnson Jr, William A. The sociology student writer's manual. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. YRL Reference Desk: HM585 .S638 2004
- The Sociology Writing Group. A guide to writing Sociology Papers. YRL Reference Desk & College Library: HM73 .G78 2001
- Pycszak, Fred. Writing empirical research reports : a basic guide for students of the social and behavioral sciences
- Benjamin, Jules R. A student's guide to history. College Library: D16.3 .B4 2004
- Washington Researchers, Ltd. Business researcher's handbook : the comprehensive guide for business professionals Management Library 1<sup>st</sup> floor stacks: HB74.5 .B87 1983

### Citing and Documenting Sources

**These web pages point you to invaluable resources for citing and documenting your research and for managing a hectic quarter system. Also see sources cited in the Writing Help section.**

- Bruin Success with Less Stress. <http://www.library.ucla.edu/bruinsuccess/> Join Carlos & Eddie as they give tips for avoiding plagiarism, correct file-sharing, citing and documenting sources and time management strategies.
- Road to Research Tutorial - <http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/library/>. Module: *Road Etiquette*. How to avoid plagiarism by quoting and paraphrasing correctly.
- University of Minnesota Assignment Calculator. <http://www.lib.umn.edu/help/calculator>

### Writing Help

- UCLA College of Letters and Sciences & Covell Tutorials. Tips for Writing College Papers. Also contains links to individual help by peer tutors. [http://www.college.ucla.edu/up/ct/writing\\_.htm](http://www.college.ucla.edu/up/ct/writing_.htm)
- OWL at Purdue - <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl>. This site has been revamped. For a quick index to all of their printable handouts, go to: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/index2.html> This excellent website provides handouts on General Academic Writing (e.g. Writing A Thesis Statement), Researching and Documenting Sources, Grammar help and more.
- University of Wisconsin, Madison. The Writing Center. The Writer's Handbook. <http://www.wisc.edu/writing/Handbook/>. This site contains help for all stages of the writing process. Links include Stages of the Writing Process, Common Types of Writing Assignments, Improving Your Writing Style and more...
- The University of Kansas Writing Center: Writing Guides. <http://www.writing.ku.edu/students/guides.shtml> Topics include Academic Essays, Writing a Thesis statement, The Writing Process, Writing in Your Courses, etc. This also provides a link to the University of Minnesota's Assignment Calculator
- University of Richmond, Writing Center. Writer's Web. <http://writing2.richmond.edu/writing/wweb.html> Covers almost everything you can think of related to the writing process including tips on overcoming writer's block, writing in various disciplines, general writing tips and more.
- College Library's Steps to Writing a Research Paper <http://www.library.ucla.edu/libraries/college/help/writingguide.htm>