

Where should I search?

Video Transcript

The bibliography of your research paper should have a variety of sources.

You definitely want scholarly articles and books, but depending on your topic, you might also need background information, government documents, journalism, or firsthand accounts from the people most impacted by your research topic.

Different kinds of sources are found in different places- you can't just do one Google search and get everything that you need. This video covers where to search for different types of sources.

If you are just learning about your research topic for the first time, you should start with background information to get the big picture.

Read the Wikipedia page, but also check out the library's online encyclopedias, found in the Gale Virtual Reference database. You can cite library encyclopedias in your paper as reputable sources for context and background information.

You will definitely need scholarly articles, also known as peer review or academic sources. These are articles written and reviewed by experts, usually professors. You can find them in library databases, such as Academic Search Complete

You can also find scholarly and popular books on your topic by searching the library catalog. Don't overlook print books, as there are a ton of good sources on the library shelves, and we are always buying new books.

If your topic is about people, especially historically marginalized groups of people, you want to make sure that the voices of people from those communities are included in your research.

You can't always find that in scholarly sources, so look for videos, essays, social media, and other online sources.

You can also search online for government documents and reports.

Searching in a variety of different places will give you different types of information

Check out library encyclopedias and databases of scholarly articles, books, and the internet for reputable sources that you can use

You can find out more about how to search and evaluate information from all these places in our other Research Help videos.