



Research Papers Made Easy!

1. Be clear about your topic and your teacher's instructions before you begin your research.

2. **FIND BOOKS:**

- i. First, use SUBJECT searches in our online library catalog.
- ii. Enter simple search terms like: "teenage pregnancy" / "universe" / "climate change" for best results, then scroll down list of matches for more specific sub-topics.
- iii. For critical analysis of an author / musician / scientist / politician / artist, search person, *last name first*. ex: "AUSTEN, JANE"
- iv. For specific time periods, search "UNITED STATES HISTORY" and scroll down list for specific centuries or decades.
- v. Try Keyword or Title searches if you aren't finding what you want under Subject.

- **NOTE:** *If you have a Library Card from EPL or any other Lewis & Clark library you can **access our online library catalog from home and request items!***





3. FIND ARTICLES:

- i. Go to: www.edwardsvillelibrary.org, click the Research tab, then choose from the list of databases under the "Student Resources" heading. (*see attachment for database descriptions/instructions*).
- ii. After you choose your database, start with a SUBJECT search (same guidelines as books)
- iii. Always check "Full Text" option if available.
- iv. Once you get a list of results, there is usually a search bar to "refine your search" within results list -- ex: subject search AUSTEN, JANE, then "refine your search" to PRIDE AND PREJUDICE.

- **NOTE:** *If you have an Edwardsville Library card you can access our online Article Databases from home!*

4. CITATION STYLES

MLA -

Library Book: call # 808.02 GIB





Website:

<http://honolulu.hawaii.edu/library/mlahcc7th.html>

CHICAGO -

Library Book: call # 808.027 CHI

Website:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

5. WEBSITES

When using websites for research, look for **.gov** (government), **.edu** (universities/schools), and **.org** for most authoritative sites. *(Try to stay away from .coms)*

Research TIPS:

- Choose the most recently published books/articles on your subject and **look at the author's "source page"** (or bibliography) to get ideas for other sources you might be able to use.





- Skim the Table of Contents and Index of books to see if they are right for your subject.
- If you're having trouble finding sources, **search Amazon.com** for books and then use the item's "**ISBN number**" to search for the same book in the library catalog.
- A thorough reading of just a few good sources will help you pinpoint what argument you want to make. Then you can narrow your research.
- *Don't forget to copy your book's title page and publication date so you have the correct information for your citations!*
- Use Wikipedia to get another list of sources for your topic (usually found at the bottom of each topic article)

[We're here to help!](#)

Call **Cary** or **Judy** at the Reference Desk: 618-692-7556

Hours: M-Th, 9-9 / Fri & Sat 9-5 / Sun 1-5

