

## **II. Gathering Information**

Before you start doing in-depth research on your topic, you will need to gather some background information in order to be able to focus on a theme and outline effectively. While using your background information, be sure to take notes concerning relevant issues within your topic; differing issues and definitions of key concepts and ideas. Appropriate sources for locating background information would include encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs, yearbooks, handbooks, and bibliographies. In order to find information concerning **Nursing Care** and **Cancer Patients**, you will need to look for background material in **nursing** and **cancer**. You may locate these resources by:

1. Searching the Library's online catalog under for general encyclopedias underneath the subject heading ***Encyclopedias*** and ***Dictionaries***. From the entries retrieved, choose the ones which would be relevant to your topic.
2. Take notes of the appropriate classification numbers for specific resources in your subject area and locate them in the appropriate reference section.
3. You may refine your search by using the keyword search button and combining words in general such as cancer and nursing with words such as encyclopedia, dictionary, etc.

Resources providing background information include:

### ***A. Encyclopedias***

#### ***General:***

*Britannica Online*

<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/database/htm#B>

*Encyclopedia Americana*

Ref. AE 5 .E333 1996

***Subject:***

*Gale Encyclopedia of Nursing & Allied Health*

Ref. RT21 .G353 2002

*Historical Encyclopedia of Nursing*

Ref. RT31 .S66 1999

*Women in Medicine: An Encyclopedia*

Ref. R692 .W545 2002

***B. Dictionaries***

***General:***

*Random House Webster's Dictionary*

Ref. PE 1628 .R294 2001

***Subject:***

*Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary*

Ref. R121 .D73 2000

*Melloni's Illustrated Dictionary of Medical Abbreviations*

Ref. R121 .M539 1998

*Oxford Illustrated Companion to Medicine*

Ref. R121 .O884 2001

*PDR Medical Dictionary*

Ref. R121 .P21 1995

***C. Handbooks and Bibliographies***

*Internet Resource Guide for Nurses and Health Professionals*

Ref. RT50.5 .M37 2001

*Professional Guide to Diseases*

Ref. RT65 .P69 2001

*Research Survival Guide*

Ref. RT81.5 .M37 2001

*Nurse Practitioner's Drug Handbook*

Ref. RM125 .N87 2002

***D. Almanacs and Yearbooks***

*Conn's Current Therapy*

Ref. RM101 .C87 2003

*Physician's Desk Reference*

Ref. RS75 .P5 2003

### ***E. Dissertations, Theses, and Senior Projects***

You may also want to consult the various dissertation, theses, and senior projects available at your library through our online catalog and our database *Current Research* @. One example of a biology thesis available through our online catalog is as follows:

Bradley, Chastity. *The Effects of Hypericum, Callycinum, and Hypericum Topas on Breast Cancer Cell Line BT549*.  
QH307 .B72 no. 3139, 2002.

You will also want to consult our *Dissertations Abstracts* database, which features abstracts of dissertations worldwide. To obtain copies of, or the original dissertations you are interested in, you will need to fill out an [interlibrary loan request](#) or contact Mrs. Barbara Van Hooser who is in charge of Interlibrary Loans for the Brown-Daniel Library. She may be contacted via telephone at **963-5206**, or by electronic mail address: [bvanhooser@tnstate.edu](mailto:bvanhooser@tnstate.edu).

### ***F. Current Information***

If you need the latest information on a new medical discovery or the latest hot topic, you would need to consult sources such as newspaper and magazine articles or scholarly journal articles, depending on the nature of your research. Some of the best sources to consult concerning current events and/or the latest scholarly research in your particular field would be as follows:

- *Lexis-Nexis* (Law and News Database)
- *CINAHL* (Nursing and Allied Health)