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_

_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:


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.

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)