I. Define a Topic in Economics and Finance

1. Search for Ideas

If you're interested in finding out about the effects of technology on banking, search and read articles and books on the topic.

For example, use ProjectMuse online database. First, select Advanced Search type in you subjects and use connector AND, and choose All Fields. Sorting can be done by Date, Relevance or Journal.

Type: *technology* and *banking*

After scanning through some articles, you should be able to come up with preliminary ideas about your topic. You can always talk to your reference librarians in the Reference Area, send e-mails or chat online via ASK A Librarian located on the library's web page. You can also consult your instructor.

2. Narrow or Broaden Your Topic

You may want to narrow your search by using qualifiers when too much information is located on your topic. In that case, 443 full-text articles are located in ProQuest on: technology and (banking or internet banking).

If you can find only a few sources, you may want to broaden your topic by related fields such as electronic fund* transfer* or internet banking and banking and technology. For example, you may find 729 articles in ProQuest that can assist you in broadening your topic.

3. State Your Topic as a Question

Stating your topic as a question may help you to stay within the scope of your selected topic. For example, what is the effect of technology on banking or electronic funds transfers?

4. Identify the Type of Information Needed

The type of information needed depends on the following:

• Type of Assignment- is this a presentation, term paper, senior project, thesis or dissertation?

• Amount of Information- how much information is needed for this assignment?

• Currency of Information- does this assignment require current, historical or a combination?

• *T*ype of Resources Needed- should the information come from scholarly and professional journals only?

• Primary vs Secondary Resources- should the information come from primary or secondary sources?

• Information in Various Formats- should the information come from only print resources or include other formats such as visual/ graphic sources, numeric sources (statistics), audio sources and/or electronic sources?