II. **Gather Background Information**

A brief background information in your topic would enable you to focus on a theme and an outline effectively. As you peruse the background information make note of relevant issues within your topic, differing issues and definitions of key concepts. Appropriate sources for locating background information include encyclopedias, almanacs and yearbooks, and handbooks and bibliographies. In order to find information in **Decision Support Systems**, you need to look for background resources in Business Information Systems. You will locate these resources by

1. searching the Library’s online catalog under the subject heading Encyclopedias and Dictionaries. From the entries retrieved, you may choose the relevant ones.

2. Note the appropriate classification numbers for specific resources or resources in the subject area and locate them in the appropriate reference section.

3. You may advance your search by searching via keyword and combining words in general areas such as Business Information Systems, Decision Support Systems, Databases with such words as encyclopedia, dictionary, etc.

Resources that provide background information include

1. **Encyclopedias** –

   **General-**
   Britannica Online
   [http://www.tnstate.edu/library/database.htm#B](http://www.tnstate.edu/library/database.htm#B)
   Encyclopedia Americana
   Ref. AE 5 .E333 1996

   **Subject-**
   Encyclopedia of Science and Technology
   Ref. Q121 .E53 2001
   The Cutting Edge: an Encyclopedia of Advanced Technologies
   Encyclopedia of Computer Science and Technology
   Ref. QA76.15 .E5 v.43

2. **Dictionaries-**
General-
Random House Webster’s Dictionary
Ref. PE 1628 .R294 2001

Subject-
Dictionary of E-Business: A Definition Guide to Technology and Business Terms
Ref. HF 5548.32

Dictionary of Information Technology
Ref. QA 76.15

Dictionary of Computer Science, Engineering and Technology
Ref. QA76.15 .D5258 2000

Welcome to the Academic Press Dictionary of Science & Technology
http://www.harcourt.com/dictionary

Microsoft Press Computer Dictionary
QA 76.15
.M538 1999b

3. Almanacs and Yearbooks-
Infoplease.com (electronic resource)
http://www.infoplease.com/
LB1028.3 .E372 2000eb

Plunkett’s E-Commerce & Internet Business Almanac
HF5548.32