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
    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
    Ref. T9 .C96 2000
    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/
Educational Media and Technology Yearbook, 2000
(electronic resource – electronic book)
LB1028.3 .E372 2000eb

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