

I. Defining Your Topic

- A. Looking for Ideas***
- B. Topic too Broad or too Narrow?***
- C. What Do I Want to Find Out About the Topic?***
- D. What Types of Information Do I Need?***

II. Gathering Background Information

- A. Encyclopedias***
- B. Dictionaries***
- C. Handbooks and Bibliographies***
- D. Almanacs and Yearbooks***
- E. Dissertations, Theses, and Senior Projects***
- F. Current Information***

III. Searching Online Databases

A. What are Online Databases?

- 1. Structure***
- 2. Type***
 - a. Bibliographic***
 - b. Full-text***
 - c. Numeric***
 - d. Image***
 - e. Audio***
- 3. Coverage***
 - a. Subject Area***
 - b. Type of Publication***
- 4. Attributes***

B. What are Journals?

- C. Searching Online Databases***
- D. Locating Print and Electronic Journal Articles***

IV. Searching the TSU Library Online Catalog for Books and Other Materials

A. How is TSU's Online Catalog Used?

- 1. Keyword Searching***
- 2. Subject Searching***
- 3. Author Search***
- 4. Title Search***
- 5. Searching Commands***
 - a. Boolean Operators***
 - b. Search Qualifiers***
 - c. Tips***

B. Locating Materials

C. Library of Congress Classification System

D. What is a Call Number?

E. Reading Call Numbers

V. Exploring and Surfing Internet Resources

A. WWW Resources at TSU Virtual Reference

B. Nursing Web Sites

VI. Evaluating Research Sources

A. Knowing Whether or Not the Information is Reliable

B. Additional Evaluation Information

VII. Putting it all on Paper

A. Organizing Your Information

B. Research Guidebooks

VIII. Citing Your Sources

A. Documenting Your Research

B. Style Manuals