



General Resources


Best general library resources for beginning your research.

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General Research Resources

Overwhelmed by all the research options offered by the Ames Library and not sure where to start? These pages will guide you to the best general resources for beginning your research. Use the tabs above to get started!

Some starter tips:

- If your instructor gave you a broad topic to work with and you don't know much about that topic, you might want to look at the encyclopedia and dictionary page to get a handle on the topic. Two to three page overview of the topic with a few bibliographic citations to get you started.
- If you have a really broad topic and don't know how to narrow it down, you might want to look in the article database tab and be strategic in your use of key word searching. Try to think of as many synonyms as possible for your topic. Be sure to choose a database that would most likely best match your subject area.
- If you have no topic chosen yet, search the topic/ideas sites listed in the box below.

Subject Guide

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Subjects:
 Political Science, Sociology,
 Anthropology, International Studies,
 Environmental Studies

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Topic Starter Sites

If you are looking for topic ideas for your papers or need informative articles that present both sides of an argument, you might want to try these sites.

- ProCon Organization**
An organization that promotes an informed citizenship by presenting controversial issues in a straightforward nonpartisan pro-con format.
- Sociology Researcher Starter**
Provides summary articles on topics in sociology.
- Ideas Worth Spreading**
A site that brings together fascinating people and challenges them to "give the talk of their lives" in 20 minutes or less. This conference TED: technology, entertainment, design annual does this and these talks are the best of these talks.

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Subject Guide



Sue Stroyan

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 309-556-3358 Office
 309-556-3261- fax
 Office Hours: T 8:30-10:30, 2-3 W 9-11 Th 1:30-4 F 10-11
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Subjects:
 Information Commons, Physical Education, Minor Myers jr. Honor Collection, Mellon Collection, RefWorks

Find Journals

Use this tool to locate a specific journal, or to find an article if you have a complete citation.

*Journal title:

Exact Begins Contains

Year:

Volume:

Issue:

Start page:

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