

Finding Information

[Home](#) [About Us](#) [Finding Information](#) [Library Services](#) [Ask a Librarian](#)

Library Catalog

w Non-Fiction
w Fiction
w Reference
w E-books
w Career Collection

SDLN.net

w Native American Collection
w Departmental Collection
w NCA Collection
w Library Collection
w WDT History

Departmental Collections--- Some of the WDT Departmental Collections are cataloged within the SD Library Network, but most are not available for circulating except on campus. Researching Departmental Collections such as Paralegal Resource Law Library's materials can be view in the Card Catalog and changing the library to WDT.

E-Books---E-books are the electronic version of a printed book that can be viewed from within the library catalog in SDLN or WorldCat. The collection of over 6,000 books are available in fiction and non-fiction. Viewing or browsing of books does not require a library card, but if you enjoy reading the book and want to check it out, you'll want to have your library card. You also need to take the time to set up a personal account on campus through NetLibrary.

Vertical Files--- A subject file index to current pamphlets and other paperbound items that are filed in magazine boxes near the Reference Section in the WDT Library. Items can be checked out or photocopied but are not available on sdln.net. For citing information go to www.apa.org or www.mla.org.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Using the Library Catalog to Find Books

If you have Internet access, you can log on to the WDT Library Catalog at www.sdln.net. You can search collections of books, videos, sound recordings and other media owned by WDT or participating SD Libraries. Click our mouse into the ALEPH Catalog where you will log in with your library barcode and password. The library catalog is not difficult to use, but it can be complex. To get the best results, if you have not used the ALEPH Catalog before, you may want to ask for advice from the staff. Meanwhile, below are a few tips to find the best resources for your topic in the Library Catalog.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Start with a Basic Search

Use the subject search when your topic is broad and/or can be described in a word or two. The WDT Library uses the Dewey Demical system and uses standard subject headings. For example, search *Death Penalty*. You will be referred to the Full Record that lists the subject heading *Capital Punishment*. Under Capital Punishment you can find ALEPH *Services* where you can continue to search *Other Documents* in the database, headings, or go directly to *Google*.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Sections:

[Library Catalog](#)
[Using the Catalog](#)
[Start Search](#)
[Limit Search](#)
[Scan Headings](#)
[WorldCat](#)

Doing Research?

Need to schedule reference help? Do you need more material to support your research paper?

Click [here](#) to Ask a Librarian.

Need an Idea?

Debate Topics:

How do I find or pick a controversial topic? Visit these web sites:

[Debatebase](#)
[ProCon](#)
[SIRS Researcher](#)
[SIRS Discover](#)

or

For additional help read on how to get started [here](#).

Citation Help (APA/MLA)

[KnightCite](#)
[Owl English](#)
[APA.org](#)
[MLA.org](#)

Evaluating Resources

How do you evaluate your resources and find out if they are reliable? Click [here](#) to find out how to

evaluate and [here](#) to learn the 5 W's of evaluating. For specific guidelines for supporting materials click [here](#).



Database and Articles

Government Resources

Health/Human Services

Legal Resources

Scholarly Websites

Statistics

Subject Resources

Vertical Files

Use Keywords

Keyword searching is useful if your topic is hard to find or doesn't fit under any of the standard headings. Sometimes a keyword search will help you find the right subject heading (how their cataloged). You can combine keywords to narrow or broaden your topic. **But use keywords with caution!** When you type one word, you will get a list of *all items* that include your search word anywhere in the description, such as the subject headings, title, author's name, etc.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Limit Your Search

If you get a long list of books on your subject, use the drop-down box in the catalog to limit your search to just our campus. Keep in mind that you can request books to be mailed to you by Interlibrary Loan, if the resources aren't available on our campus. You will need to sign on as a user of WDT in the ALPEH Catalog System and then click on the Interlibrary Loan and the follow the process.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

Scan Chapter Heading in Catalog or Stacks

For some books, you can physically browse the table of contents or view the description of the table of contents in the ALEPH SDLN Catalog. You might find a chapter that focuses on your topic.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

WorldCat/First Search: Locating Books World-Wide

If you compare WorldCat/First Search to the database of SDLN/SD Library Network, you will be searching for items world-wide versus within South Dakota. WorldCat offers a catalog of books and other materials world-wide. The process of obtaining an interlibrary loan world-wide will take longer than an interlibrary loan shipped from within South Dakota. Most times, there is a fee attached from the loaning library to ship the item to you. Check with the librarian for defined fees from the loaning library. After locating the item, you can click on the *Libraries that own the item* and request the item to be shipped.

[BACK TO TOP](#)