

**Step 1: Topic**

Write your topic below. This should be a simple phrase:

--

**Step 2: Keywords**

Circle the main concepts in your topic and write them below. Come up with related terms for each concept and add them. Some terms may be broad (*Religion, spiritual*), others narrower (*Christianity, Buddhism*). As you research, you will find that broad terms may be more effective (searching the catalog) and other times narrow terms will be more effective.

Concept 1	Concept 2	Concept 3
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

**Step 3:** Use these concepts and related terms when you are searching the catalog, periodical databases, and the Web. You may find you need to “mix and match” to turn up the resources you need for your research.

**Step 4: Catalog searching**

Search the catalog using the **keyword relevance search** and **Subject(s)**. Write down:

A likely title: \_\_\_\_\_

Or two . . . \_\_\_\_\_

Call numbers \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If the books are not available here, have the book sent here by clicking on **Request Item** at the top of the catalog record (you’ll need your SID; select North for pickup location).

### Step 5: Database searching

1. Search **ProQuest** for articles on your topic. Remember to combine your keyword concepts with the Boolean operator **and**. Review my web page on finding articles to remind yourself how to construct a search that a database will understand. Keep it simple! Use **or** and **not** only if you need to.

2. Email yourselves articles you think you will help your research. Before sending, select the citation style **MLA**.

3. Topics in ProQuest:

---

---

---

---

Follow these links for more articles on your topic.

4. Explore at least two other databases, reference or periodical. Are some of these databases better for your research than others? Familiarize yourself with their features and email yourself the results.

- Academic Search Premier
- Literature Resource Center
- Ethnic NewsWatch

Now your “research kit” is nearly complete. 😊

### Step 6: On your own:

Books:

- Find the book/s you turned up in your catalog search.
- Browse the shelves in the related call number range/s for more books.

Websites:

- Search effectively and with a critical eye. Remember to evaluate what you find for authority, currency, bias and documentation.
- Use the pathfinder pages on this site and other authoritative pages (.edu sites) for more resources on your topic.