

### Goals:

- ensure that you can find enough information on your topic;
- discover themes and areas of research related to your topic;
- learn what other scholars have said about your topic.

### How can you find research material on your topic?

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- To begin researching a topic, think about the sources you have read.
  - What ideas do they offer?
  - What are main areas of research, or themes, relating to your topic?
  - What do other scholars say about your topic?
  - How do these help you address your research question?
- What keywords can you use to begin a search for material?
- Determine what kind of material is needed to write the paper. Do you need to find journals, books, etc.?
  - The library's [online catalogue](#) is the best place to find scholarly or academic sources.
  - The library catalogue allows you to search for books and articles held in the library, and contains many online databases and journals related to different subjects.

### Tips

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As you do research, do the following in order to have all of the information you need when referencing:

- **Keep track of all your sources** by taking careful notes;
- Write down the necessary **bibliographic information** at the top of the page followed by your notes from that source;
- Take note of the **page number** for each quote you use.

### Evaluate Sources

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**Goal:** ensure that the material you find is acceptable for university assignments.

There are many sources of information: journals, books, electronic resources... Determine which will be appropriate for your assignment.

Many professors insist that you use “scholarly” or “academic” sources. What they mean is that they want you to use sources in which the author and information is credible. Ask the following questions\*?

- How recent is the publication? Is it up to date?
- Is the author an expert? Is he or she qualified to write about the topic?
- Does the author have a bias? Does he or she consider opposing views?

\*From Fowler, H.R, Aaron, J.E. & McArthur, M. (2005) *The Little, Brown Handbook*. Toronto, Pearson Education Canada.