

# Finding the good stuff

How to find books and articles without breaking a sweat!

# We're already on our way!

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The work you did in the discussion got us started.

But let's just review a few things before we go any further...

# Important concept to remember:

- Subject
  - Another word for topic is subject. A subject is usually a single topic like ***tattooing***, ***single mothers*** or ***college freshmen***.

# A “rose” by any other name

*Brainstorming is essential!*

- We don't all use the same words for the same things
  - if at first you don't succeed...
- What other words/phrases describe your topic?
  - Want something on the U.S.?
    - Try spelling out United States or using America or American
  - Looking for something about kids?
    - Kids, children, youth, young adults, adolescents, teenagers, teens, tweens, babies, infants, toddlers, pre-schoolers
- As Winnie the Pooh would say, “Think, think, think!”

# Still more about subjects

- A subject is then usually broken down in to ***subdivisions*** (different focuses or aspects of the larger topic).
- For example the American Civil War has the following subdivisions *(and many others beside!)*:
  - Battlefields
  - Campaigns
  - Medical care
  - Prisons and prisoners
  - Social aspects

# Using subject searching

- Most library databases are set to automatically take you to a subject search screen (but not all! – be aware of what the database is doing – **READ the SCREEN!**)
- After you have searched for your subject, choose the appropriate subdivisions (there may be several!)

# Another important concept to remember:

- Keyword
  - A basic keyword search is usually a combination of words that describe what you want to find like ***tattooing and discrimination, single mothers and stress and college freshmen and binge drinking.***
  - Notice that the word “***and***” links all of those topics together. Library databases need you to tell them when the words have to be right next to each other in that order by not putting an “***and***” between them (single mothers, college freshmen, binge drinking) and when they don’t have to be right next to each other (single mothers ***and*** stress, college freshmen ***and*** binge drinking)

# When would I do a keyword search?

- If you can't find an exact match with your chosen subject (and you've tried a few other words/phrases that describe your topic)
- If your subject is too new to be an "official subject" yet - Nintendo Wii
- For complex combinations - united states foreign relations and france and history

# Subject vs. Keyword

- Subject

- Good for exploring different aspects of a single topic through subdivisions
  - Causes, diagnosis and psychological aspects of cancer
  - Social aspects, ethical aspects and public opinion of capital punishment

- Keyword

- Good for combining topics together
  - Participation in sports and self-esteem
  - Children of single parents and academic achievement
  - Sleep deprivation and college students