Let’s Look for Books!

Searching the Library’s Book Catalog
Why Should I Look Here?
(My assignment doesn’t say I have to use books so why should I?)

- The library owns about 80,000 books and the catalog also has links to 5,000+ electronic books.
- Because it’s not a huge database the library catalog isn’t overwhelming.
- Books can be one-stop shopping including a history of your topic, current issues and future outlook.
Small is Good, but…

• Books take time to research, write, publish and sell to libraries. By the time we get a book it may not be the latest word on a topic.

• Because we have to buy books for all possible topics, we can’t cover each topic as much as we’d like – we only have so much money and space!
How Do I Search?

• From the library’s web page, click on Genesee’s Library Catalog in the center of the page, or on Library Catalog under the little picture on the left.

• Choose what kind of search you want to perform – Browse Subject or Keyword (see the file “Finding the Good Stuff” for more info on subject and keyword searching).
Psychological Impact of Ovarian Cancer

- My subject is ovarian cancer with a focus on the psychological impact so in the Browse Search box I type in ovarian cancer.

- The closest match is one item listed under Ovaries – Cancer – Popular works, so I click on that and then I click on the title of the item.
### What can I tell about this book?

- It’s from 1996.
- It’s 184 pages long.
- It’s about Gilda Radner, Gene Wilder’s wife.
- It seems to be a combination of medical and personal information.
In this case, I can view the Table of Contents, a Summary and a Review from CHOICE Magazine to help me decide if this book is going to talk about the psychological impact of ovarian cancer.

After viewing them all, the Review helps me to decide that this will be a good book.

Not every book that has a picture of the cover will have all of these options. Sometimes you will only get a Table of Contents or a Summary, and sometimes you’ll only get a larger picture of the cover.
But I Need Two Books…

- Subject searching only turned up one book, so now it’s time to try a keyword search.
- I start with the obvious choice: ovarian and cancer and psychological – all of the important words I want to find.
What the Heck Do These Mean??

If you get the Permute Search page it just means we don’t own any books with all of the words you’re looking for and you’re going to have to try something else.

In this case I figured that a book about the psychological impact of cancer would be OK, even if it didn’t specifically mention ovarian cancer, so I go back and this time search for: cancer and psychological.
My new keyword search for “cancer and psychological” finds 12 books, one of which is this one, which seems like it would be a great choice.
Your Skills Will Grow!

• The book catalog is easy to work with because it’s small, but the problem with it is that it’s too small to cover some topics.

• Understanding how to use both subject and keyword searching here will help you in the bigger article databases like General OneFile.