

Librarian _____
phone, email _____

Writing 1: Washington University Libraries' Research Tips
<http://www.library.wustl.edu>

There are many types of **sources**:

<i>If you need</i>	<i>Use</i>
<i>Ideas for getting started</i>	<i>Jumpstart Your Research</i> page at http://library.wustl.edu/research.html
Background information, overview	Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, and other Reference Sources
Ideas, current information	Magazines, Newspapers
In-depth analysis	Scholarly, peer-reviewed journals
History, overview	Books
Demographics and Statistics	Government Publications and Government Web sites, News Magazines, Newspapers

Sources come in different **formats**:

Print	Video recordings
Electronic (open access and limited access)	Sound recordings
Microfilm	Maps
Computer files	Still images

Primary sources are firsthand accounts, historical documents, data, surveys, works of visual art and literature, government documents, and more; and **secondary sources** analyze, interpret, or comment on primary sources.

- **Research Tip** Carefully examine the **footnotes and bibliographies** of secondary sources to locate the primary sources they are agreeing with, disputing, or interpreting in a new light.
- Also, perform keyword searches on the **names** of people, organizations, phenomena, theories, and events associated with your topic—to find speeches, policy statements, studies, interviews, novels, poems, or photographs.

Searching the WU Library Catalog for Primary Sources: published collections of primary sources carry the word "sources" as part of the subject heading. Examples:

Missouri River Valley -- History -- Sources
African Americans -- Civil rights -- History -- 20th century -- Sources
Italy -- History -- 1922-1945 -- Sources

- **Tip** Add "sources" to your keyword search:

Black Panther* and sources

Other terms to try: archives, personal narratives, interviews, pictorial works, maps, manuscripts, notebooks, diaries, correspondence, cartoons, description and travel.

Suggested **databases** for starting your research (link from **Find Database A-Z List**):

Multidisciplinary

- Academic Search Premier
- Alternative Press Index
- GPO Catalog (government info)
- Oxford Reference Online
- Web of Science

Arts and Humanities

- America: History and Life
- Art Full Text
- Historical Abstracts
- Literature Online
- MLA (language and literature)

Science

- PubMed (medicine)
- INSPEC (physics, engineering, computing)
- Applied Science Full Text

News & Current Issues

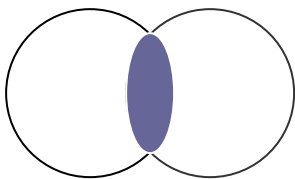
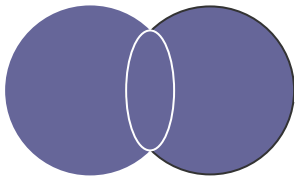
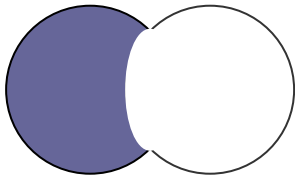
- Global NewsBank
- Ethnic NewsWatch
- LexisNexis Academic
- CQ Researcher

Social Sciences


- Education Full Text
- GenderWatch (women's/gender issues)
- Business Source Premier
- PsycINFO (psychology)
- Sociological Abstracts

Search Strategies

1. **Combining** keywords with and, or, not

And	 <p>Television and Teenagers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narrows search ▪ Retrieves records with both concepts ▪ Use for unrelated terms
Or	 <p>Letters or Correspondence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Broadens search ▪ Retrieves records with both concepts ▪ Use for related terms
Not	 <p>Mexico not New</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Narrows search ▪ Retrieves records with first term except those that contain second term ▪ May exclude relevant items

2. **Truncation**: Truncate the word with a common truncation symbol (*, ?) to return records with variants of the word. Ex. global* retrieves global, globalization, globalism
3. **Limits**: look for limits like date, language, peer-reviewed, publication type, etc.

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<http://library.wustl.edu/libhelp/linking.html>