You can create a successful search strategy (develop a keyword statement) and use it to search SteenFind, the Internet, or the library’s databases.

1. Write your topic as a question to focus it.
2. Circle or underline the keywords (main terms). For example:
   “What is the impact of the Tea Party on elections in the United States?”
3. Use synonyms for your keywords.
4. Combine keywords using Boolean (AND, OR), nesting (use of parentheses), and phrase searching (use of quotation marks). For example:
   “tea party” AND (politics OR elections) AND “united states”

Your research project should then attempt to answer the question posed.

Now, the search process can begin!

**Using SteenFind**

From the Library’s home page, use one of the search boxes and put in your search strategy. Now, click the SEARCH magnifying glass. You will get two columns: Books & More and Articles & More.

If you see a red cover next to any Articles & More citation, that is going to be a thesis or dissertation that you will be able to access and use.
Using the Research Guides

Note the clickable words across the top of the Library home page. Click on RESEARCH. Find the guide that fits best with your research topic. For instance, if you use the tea party search strategy from above, you would want to use the Political Science Research Guide. Here you will find the best databases for political science information, meet the Liaison Librarian for that subject area, and find information on books for that subject area, along with websites.

On most Research Guide pages or the A-Z Database List, it tames the Internet by limiting search results to scholarly material (i.e. peer-reviewed articles). Get to it from the Library, that way there will be links to the full-text of the articles to which the Steen Library has access.

Once you find the resources, do not forget to cite what you use!

Here is one free citation tool that I like:

KnightCite Citation Service
http://www.calvin.edu/library/knightcite/

If you need further assistance, drop in to a research librarian’s office on 2nd floor; make an appointment for an individual research consultation; use Ask-A-Librarian; OR

Contact your Liaison Librarian

Tina Oswald  E-mail: toswald@sfasu.edu  Office: 202B  Phone: 936-468-1861
If there is no access to an article you need, see the directions on the page below to see if Steen Library has access to it!

Citation information example:


1. Enter the **journal title** in the search box on the Library home page and select Journals@Steen from the SteenFind pull down list.

2. On the list retrieved, find the exact journal title you need. The journal title list will be in alphabetical order.

3. Below the journal title, review the list of databases.

   **Child development** (0009-3920)
   
   - from 03/01/1930 to 1 year ago in *Academic Search Complete*
   - from 03/01/1930 to 1 year ago in *Professional Development Collection*
   - from 03/01/1930 to 1 year ago in *Psychology & Behavioral Sciences Collection*
   - from 03/01/1930 to 1 year ago in *SocINDEX with Full Text*
   - from 03/01/1930 to 11/30/2011 in *JSTOR Arts & Sciences IV*
   - from 12/01/1932 to 1 year ago in *Literary Reference Center*
   - from v. 1, 1930 to v. 76, 2005 in *Stephen F. Austin State University's Print Holdings*

4. Compare the date needed with the available dates listed for each database.

5. Choose the database that will provide the date you need.

6. Follow the link to the appropriate database; use the year list on the right side of the screen and select the year, and then the volume needed. Now look for the article title or the page numbers for the article.

7. If there is not an electronic match for your journal title and date:
   a. Look for a link that says “in *Stephen F. Austin State University's Print Holdings.***”
   b. Note the dates listed for the print journal housed in the Steen Library print holdings.
   c. If we have the year needed, then click on Stephen F. Austin State University's Print Holdings, find the call number, and retrieve the journal. Issues of the journals are upstairs: A-N call numbers on 4th floor; P-Z call numbers on the 3rd floor.

8. If you need the article and we do not have it, use Interlibrary Loan (https://illiad.sfasu.edu/illiad/logon.html). Register with the SFASU interlibrary loan system called ILLiad. It is FREE! Then, you can request the article you need.

9. The same goes for any other materials you may need. If you need a book, you should check to see if we have either the paper copy or access to the title in e-book format. If we do not, you can order it, or any materials for which you have a citation, by using Interlibrary Loan.

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