Doing research in the Steen Library is a bit different from doing research in a lab. In the Library, you are looking for informational resources on your topic. If you are planning to do a research project, Thesis, or Dissertation, then you are going to be required to do a Literature Review in which you will collect all the pertinent informational resources on your topic.

You really need to spend some time thinking about what you want to know. If you can put it in the form of a question, even better! For instance:

**What are some causes of childhood language delay?**

Now, you might feel confident answering that question on your own, but you have to have proof to back you up!

1. Pick out the keywords to use in your search strategy:
   - causes
   - childhood
   - language delay

2. Are there any synonyms for any of these terms?
   - causes or factors
   - childhood or children or adolescents

Combine the terms using the connecting words (Boolean operators) AND, OR, NOT.

\[(\text{children OR adolescents}) \text{ AND “language delay” AND (causes OR factors)}\]

Do the same in this space with your topic.

**Your topic:**

**A question to answer:**

**Synonyms:**

**Using connecting words:**

Once you have a search strategy, you are ready to begin!
First of all, familiarize yourself with the Steen Library home page (https://library.sfasu.edu/).

You can get to Library’s resources from this page, from books to articles to DVD’s!

1. The search box allows you to run a search, using SteenFind, the Library’s online catalog, and find Books & More and Articles & More on the topic.
2. Words below the main search box lead to other areas on the Library home page.
3. At the bottom of the screen are the very important Steen Library Quick Links, with my personal favorites: a link to Interlibrary Loan, and the Library Map!

So, use the search strategy created and run the search in SteenFind.

**What To Use?**

**In terms of databases, you will want to use the subject specific ones found on the Research Guide pages.**

Use the Research tab, and then click on the Research Guide that best matches your topic. For most of you that will be Human Services, but it might be Medicine & Health, or Psychology. It is all dependent on your topic.

Be sure and use the General Databases first, specifically:

- **Dissertations & Theses**  Includes bibliographic citations for dissertations and theses worldwide, from 1861 to the present, with full-text access available for the newer titles and abstracts available for the older titles.
- **Google Scholar**  Searches scholarly literature across many disciplines and sources, including theses, books, abstracts, and articles.

Then, try the Subject Specific Databases, like:

- **ERIC**  A digital library of education-related resources, including journal and non-journal literature, with some available in full-text format.
- **Health Reference Center**  Provides access to articles from a wide range of nursing and allied health journals, magazines, and pamphlets.
- **PsycINFO**  Includes books and book chapters in English, and 1,300+ journals, in over 20 languages, in the field of psychology, with many available in full-text format.

For a list of all the databases available, use the link to Databases A – Z on the Quick Links list or any of the Research Guide pages.
Remember: There are going to be resources that we do not have, or that we do not have access to, so use Interlibrary Loan as needed to get the resources you need.

How do I find an article when I have a citation for it?

Here is the citation (journal title, date, volume, page numbers, the article title, and author(s)) for an article:

Follow the instructions below to see if Steen Library has access to that article.

1. Use the Search Box on the library homepage https://library.sfasu.edu/.
2. From the drop-down menu, select Journals@Steen.
3. Enter the journal title (not the article title) into the search box and click the magnifying glass.
4. On the list retrieved, find the exact journal title you need. The list is in alphabetical order.
5. Below the journal title, review the list of databases
6. Compare the date for the article you need with the dates available listed for each database/publisher.

Aphasiology (0268-7038)

from 01/01/1997 to present in Taylor & Francis Combined Library (SSH & ST)
from 07/01/1998 to 18 months ago in Communication & Mass Media Complete (EBSCO)

7. Choose the database or publisher that matches the date you need.
8. Follow the link to the appropriate database or journal, and select the year or volume needed. Next, look for the article title or page numbers you need.
9. If there is not an electronic match for your journal title and date:
   a. Look for a link: “in Stephen F. Austin State University's Print Holdings.”
   b. Follow this link into the catalog and look at the dates of Steen Library print holdings.
   c. If we have the year you need, note the call number and retrieve the journal. All are upstairs depending on the first letter of the call number: A-N on 4th; P-Z on 3rd
10. The library does not have every article cited in our databases. If you really need the article, and we don’t have it, use the Interlibrary Loan link off the Library home page. Once you are registered with our interlibrary loan system, you can request materials you need. This is a free service!

Out of area Distance Education students can use the same form to request articles that we have in print in the Steen Library.

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TAO