

LIB101
Research Strategies Assignment
Due In Class January 15th

Name: _____.

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate good strategies for beginning research. (You may be able to use the subject chosen for this assignment for your final bibliography, so take your time in exploring its research potential.)

1. Choose a topic that you find interesting and write it down. This can be a broad topic. It will evolve as you learn more about the subject area.

What are some other words you would use to describe your topic? (These will be helpful later when you use indexes and other resources to find your topic. Not every source will use the same terms.)

2. Browse the subject areas under Databases & Indexes and Guides to Research on the Janus page <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/janus.php>.

What subject area or discipline would you place your topic in?

3. Choose your subject area under Guides to Research on the Janus page. <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/janus.php#guides>.

Browse the guide for the title and location of *specialized* encyclopedias for your topic. Write down the title of the encyclopedia you chose.

(If you cannot find a guide for your area, use the "Select Guide to Library of Congress Classification" found in the rack next to the Reference Desk to find your subject area and browse the Reference shelves in the call number area listed OR do a keyword search in the library catalog for [*your topic*] and dictionaries. If you still can't find one, ask for help at the Reference Desk.)

4. Find the specialized encyclopedia that you chose. Look in the front of the first volume for the table of contents or list of articles. Look in the back of the last volume for an index.

Browse the index and table of contents for your topic. Write down *three* headings listed for your topic area in the index and/or table of contents. These terms may help identify relevant research in other sources as well as in the encyclopedia.

5. Find one of the encyclopedia articles that the index refers to and make a photocopy of the first and last pages of the article. The last page of the article should have a bibliography (also called "references," "works cited," "further reading," etc.) that lists other books and articles on your topic. If there are *less than five sources* listed in the bibliography, copy another bibliography from a second article on your topic.
6. Write your name on the photocopies and staple them to this handout. Hand in the assignment at the beginning of class on January 15th.

**Specialized Encyclopedias
are a good source with which to begin your research because they...**

Are more in-depth and authoritative than general encyclopedias

Provide an overview of current scholarly research in your subject area

Summarize the research of a specific scholar in your subject area

Contain indexes to help identify relevant encyclopedia entries

- * Browse the table of contents or list of articles at the beginning
- * Browse the index at the end of the last volume

Reference additional encyclopedia entries relevant to your topic

- * Follow the cross references

Include articles by experts in your subject area

- * Read the article
- * Look up *other* books and journal articles by the author of your encyclopedia entry

Cite additional experts for further research

- * Look up the books and journal articles listed in the bibliography for your entry
- * Look up *other* books and journal articles by the authors listed in the bibliography

Questions? Ask Heather or Stephanie.