Background Research Using Library Resources
Information in Print and Electronic

HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=KWDPGKW6UMW
Background research is something that happens at the beginning of the research process when you are just learning about a topic.

- It is a search for **general information** to get the big picture of a topic for exploration, ideas about **subtopics** and **context** for the actual focused research you will do later.

- It is also a time to build a list of distinctive, broad, narrow and related **search terms**.

- It is a time to consider possible research questions.
In Print
- **Reference books** in the library

**Books** indexed in:
- Library Catalog (SearchIt)
- Available from the shelves in Vancouver or delivered from other libraries by your request at no charge.

Electronic Resources
- **Electronic Reference Resources**
- **Electronic Books**
  - Indexed in Library Catalog (SearchIt)
  - Not available from other college libraries.
Print Reference Books

- This is a collection of material that is in the library and kept in a specific section. This is usually near where the reference librarian is located. These books are NOT available for check-out and usually consist of encyclopedia, dictionaries, thesauri and atlases. These are books that usually have short entries about a topic that can be used during a library visit.

- Ask the librarian for help in finding an appropriate reference book.

- The Reference books are indexed in the WSU Search It catalog so you will notice that there are some books that do not circulate. The other books in the library are the “circulating collection” and they are available to check out.
Finding Electronic Reference

e-Reference Books

The library also provides access to electronic reference material. To find it follow this path:

- From the Vancouver library home page click on the Resources by Subject link in the left menu bar.
- Here is part of the list that will appear.
- Click on the Electronic Reference Sources & ebooks database link.

This will take you to some eReference material.
You will find a list of many electronic reference resources with a description of the content for each one. Some of them are subject specific and some are general reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CQ Press Electronic Library</td>
<td>Collection of publications from CQ Press, including encyclopedias, covering American government, politics, history, public policy, and current affairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gale Virtual Reference Library</td>
<td>Collection of online encyclopedias and reference books covering a variety of subject areas. <em>Dates of coverage:</em> Coverage varies.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Your Results Will Vary

- Each resource will have a different “look” just as different print encyclopedias and dictionaries look different but they will all have a search box.
- These type of resources require that you search with broad terms.
- You will find that your results will vary. You will be taken to pages of text in books and encyclopedias and in some cases, videos.
- In all cases you will be able to collect background information and search terms to use later.
Books have a broad and general scope making them useful for background research.

As WSU students you can get books from all of the WSU campus libraries, from numerous other college libraries in the Northwest, and if time permits, from all over the globe through Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad).

We will consider print and electronic books and print and electronic encyclopedias for this lesson.
THE CATALOG

- Everything the library is indexed in “electronic the catalog”. (like your iTunes list)
- Because books have more general content you usually need to use broad terms to search for the books you want. (jazz vs. John Coltrane)
- The WSU Catalog is called SearchIt.

https://www.flickr.com/photos/kjarrett/16127129745
Search It Catalog

Searching for Print Books

In the center of the library homepage you will notice a section called Search It. That is the name of the WSU catalog and that of our Summit partners. When you are looking for books it is best to use the dropdown menu to the right of the search box to limit your search to WSU Libraries and Summit. If you would like to see only in the Vancouver Library choose “WSU Vancouver.”

Everything that is owned by the WSU Libraries is indexed in SearchIt; so are many items from other Summit libraries.

For now we will concentrate on looking for books but the other materials indexed in the catalog are government documents, eBooks and media material.
Search the Catalog

The material in the catalog is indexed with general terms. You will want to use the broader terms you collected in your background research in your catalog search.

Put the search term or terms into the SearchIt search box and search “WSU Libraries + Summit.” It is easy to get books from other campuses in just 4-5 days.
Sign In to Search It!

- After you click search be sure to sign in as a WSU Student! If you do NOT you will NOT see all of the material that is available to you.
- Use the same ID and password you use for zussis.

Current WSU students, faculty and staff
Log in to access WSU-restricted materials and services

Community Cardholders and others without WSU Network IDs

On campus users and all others can continue as guest
Before you look at the retrieval list look to the left of the screen and see the different ways you can narrow your search to the type of material you want. For this search we will limit the search to books by clicking on the More options dropdown under “Type” and selecting Print Books and eBooks.
Retrievals

After you do your search you will get a list of items that looks like the one on the right.

You will notice that some of the items have a green dot. These are items that are available to you through WSU.

You will also notice that some of the books say “online access” or “Available at” a specific location.
Bibliographic Record

To see more about the content of a book, click on the “Details” tab to see the “full record” of the item.

You can see some of the information that is on the list of items plus a lot more.

The part you will want to pay particular attention to is the Subject list. These are the **subject terms** of our catalog and they are the language of the catalog. Add them to your list of search terms!

The Full Record of the Book
Once you find a book you want, click on the “Availability and Request Options” tab. This will tell you where the book is located. This book is in the Vancouver Library so you can use the call number to find the book on the shelf.
If the book is in another library you will click on the Request Item link to have the book sent to the Vancouver Library for you to pick up.
Completing the Request

Remember:

Select the pick-up location from the drop down menu.

Click on Request Item.

You will get an email when the book arrives.

It should take 4-5 days for the book to arrive.

You will pick it up at the circulation desk in the Library.
Your Cougar card is your Library card. Get your Cougar card asap!!
eBooks

You will find electronic books, eBooks, through the Search It catalog from the library homepage just like the print books.

You will notice the green dot by Online access that tells you it is an electronic book that is available to WSU Students.

Just click on Access Options tab and then the access link. In this case it is “ebrary Academic Complete”
eBooks

Then just follow the directions to view, navigate and read the book!
The eBook

There will be a table of contents on the left that you can use to navigate through the book.

The pages of the book will appear on the right.

You page through and read on your computer screen.

You can print from an ebook but it has to be done screen by screen.
If you are trying to access electronic documents from off campus you will have to sign in/authenticate to do so. Because these resources are subscriptions for WSU students, faculty and staff they are password protected. The network ID and password are the same that you use to access zzusis.

As is always the case— if you have any trouble or questions please call, click or come in to the library for assistance.

Ask @ the Library
Call- 360-546-9686
Email- library@vancouver.wsu.edu
Chat from the library homepage- http://library.vancouver.wsu.edu/
Right we’ve found Community Resources, IT access points, video and DVD rental, audiobooks and Meeting Rooms. Now we just need to find the books!