Scholarly Journal that Pages Each Issue Separately in a Subscription Database  [MLA 5.7.2 and 5.9.7]

Online Periodical in a Subscription Database  [MLA 5.7.6 and 5.9.7]

Newspaper in a Subscription Database  [MLA 5.7.5 and 5.9.7]


Abstract in a Non-Subscription Database  [MLA 5.7.8 and 5.9.7]

DATABASE PUBLICATION INFORMATION  [MLA 5.9.1, 5.9.4 and 5.9.7]
(Note: Computer Source, Health Source: Consumer Edition, Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition, and History Reference Center use the same citation details as Academic Search Complete after database name.)


**General rules:**

- Underline or italicize titles of books, magazines, and scholarly journals. Consult your professor for preference. Enclose title of articles, essays, poems, and short stories in quotation marks.
- When certain information, such as an author, is missing, skip it and go on to the next part.
- Pay careful attention to punctuation, and type exactly as each example indicates.
- Indent five spaces or one-half inch after the first line of each entry. Use double line spacing throughout.
- For pages that are not consecutive, such as newspapers, use a plus sign: “192+.” If you have only the starting page number of an article’s original print publication, give the number followed by a hyphen, a space, and a period: “192-.”
- Be sure to alphabetize your Works Cited page by author’s last name, or, if the author’s name is not given, by the first word of the title.

**Parenthetical documentation [MLA 6]**

- All sources cited in the text should be listed in the Works Cited.
- The author’s name may be included in the text and only the page numbers in parenthesis. “As Allison asserts (97), the...” Many instructors prefer this method.
- Alternatively, use the first part of your citation for parenthetical documentation. Usually, that will be the author or authors’ last names. Follow with the page number. (Brown and Proper 17).
- A title may be truncated. (Texas 73).
- Use as little information as possible while making a unique identification. If there are two books by the same author, you must include part of the title. (Allison, Whatever 97).
- If you have no page numbers, it usually flows better to include the reference in the text. “According to Allison, the...”

**Example with appropriate spacing. Be sure there is only one space after punctuation.**


**Based on the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 6th ed. REF LB 2369.G53 2003**
DIFFERENT SOURCES FOR DIFFERENT TOPICS

INFORMATION LITERACY is the set of skills needed to find, retrieve, analyze, and use information. Living in the Information Age, we are inundated with information overload – too much information. Training and practice are needed to hone skills in finding, analyzing and using information. One of the best sources for this training is the library. The support you receive there will give you confidence in using information to make a decision or create a product. Using a variety of sources makes research more credible and helps researchers improve their skills.

GETTING STARTED
Sources of information include books, newspapers, journals and magazines, fact sheets, white papers, diaries, interviews, and more. Each has value. As you begin your research, it is important to think about where the best information can be found for your topic. Is the topic new? If so, perhaps newspapers, television, and Internet news sources are best. Is it a topic that has been around for a while – long enough to have many articles or books written about it? If so, perhaps the library catalog and full-text article databases are best. Is your topic historic or a study? Is it a literary criticism? If so, books and peer-reviewed articles are best. Of course, the Internet can be carefully used for every topic. Prepare for your research by selecting sources and search terms.

THINK ABOUT IT
» Do you need background on your topic or do you already know about it and only need specific information to fill in the gaps?

Examples of background are:
1. The history of a subject, such as abortion
2. A chronology of a scientific development, such as cloning
3. Historic information about a company or industry

» Do you need hard facts, such as statistics, definitions, formulas?
» Does your topic emphasize historical information or more recent events?
» Does your topic relate to: Science and technology ___ Sociology or psychology ___ History ____ Literature ____ Careers ____ Health and Wellness _____ Other ____?

Answer these questions before you begin. Then you will be more likely to choose a variety of appropriate resources in the best possible formats.

ACCESSING ONLINE RESOURCES FROM OFF-CAMPUS

The Library web page is located at http://kclibrary.lonestar.edu. Begin your research here. You will need a library card. You can get one on campus. Your barcode will be put on the back of your picture ID card. If you aren’t on campus, apply online. The library staff will mail your card.

The Library catalog is available on our web page to search for books, electronic books, videos and other resources the library has for your research. You will find books in Lone Star College-Kingwood Library or one of the four other campus libraries. Books can be borrowed electronically from the other campuses [request first available copy button]. It takes about 2 days for the book to be transferred to Lone Star College-Kingwood Library. You will be called when the book is ready for pick up.
Library Web Page Assignments & Guides has assignment guides for most research projects. These can be found on the assignment web page. Your instructor will let you know if your class has one. Background, themes, helpful hints, resources, and links to databases are listed. You can also email or chat to the librarian from these assignment guides.

Subject Guide to Databases lists databases appropriate for research in specific subject areas. To find articles from journals, magazines and newspapers you will use a database to locate electronic versions of those resources. Think about the best keywords to describe your topic.

### USING A VARIETY OF RESOURCES

Using a variety of types of resources usually results in a better, more credible paper. Use this evaluation grid to help you decide. Research is all about EVALUATION. Everyone knows there is plenty of information. The question is, are you finding the BEST information for your refined topic?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RESOURCES</th>
<th>ADVANTAGES</th>
<th>LIMITATIONS</th>
<th>HINTS FOR USING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REFERENCE MATERIAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Dictionaries, almanacs, encyclopedias, hand-books. Located in reference area. Some are available online | » Good place to start  
» Brief background  
» Facts and statistics  
» Focused summaries  
» Objective information  
» Sources available when needed | » Print references are not published as quickly  
» Can be difficult to locate a specific topic in a large source | » Ask a librarian; they will know the best references for your topic.  
» Begin at the Assignment guide to see which sources are suggested |

| **BOOKS** |
| Can be found in print and electronic format (eBooks) | » Thorough exploration  
» Authors are generally experts in the field  
» Can be checked out  
» eBooks are ready for use on your computer-cut and paste | » May be more information than you need for your topic  
» Books may be already checked out | » Use the catalog to find books  
» Request books electronically from other libraries  
» eBooks can be searched using keywords  
» Use the index and contents to find information |

| **DATABASES** |
| Contain full-text (complete) copies of articles from magazines, journals, and newspapers in electronic format. Use the subject guide to find the best databases for your topic. | » Good place to start  
» Brief background  
» Facts and statistics  
» Focused summaries  
» Objective information  
» Sources available when needed | » Articles may be brief and specific, but not on your topic  
» Many 'hits', must use keywords wisely.  
» Opinions may be emphasized over facts | » Use databases linked through the library homepage  
» Look for Full Text articles – for the whole article.  
» Use “peer-reviewed” to assure you have scholarly information  
» You can email articles, print, or save articles. |

| **INTERNET** |
| The internet is readily available from online computers. Information world-wide. Open to all – which means everyone can ‘post’ to the Internet. | » Huge variety of information on almost any topic  
» Allows access to resources all over the world  
» Very recent events may be covered  
» Governmental and organizational sites have excellent statistics and facts.  
» Find previously inaccessible information at large libraries. | » Information can be unreliable  
» Huge number of search results means best resources hard to locate  
» Some information is incomplete or you must pay for it  
» Organizations have good information, but it may be difficult to find unless you know what you are looking for. | » Several search engines are linked to the library homepage.  
» Recommended websites are linked to the assignment guides.  
» Training may be needed to use effectively and efficiently  
» Ask the librarian to recommend good sites for your topic, ones you may not find through a Google search. |