Research Hints and Tips

- Start your research early, and be patient. Good research is not done quickly – it will take time to tailor your topic, your keywords/search terms, and to find the resources you need.

- Remember when using the databases to use the limiters in order to find the best results. You can limit the date of publication to the last 5 or 10 years if you need the most recent research for your topic. You can also use the Subject or Subject: Thesaurus Term menus to see additional subtopics, and to focus your search results.

- Find a great book on your topic? You don’t have to read the entire book. Use your time wisely, especially when you may have to sort through many different references and resources for your project. Reading the book’s introduction and/or first chapter, along with skimming the pertinent chapters, and the conclusion will often give you enough of an overview. If the book is broad in scope, be sure to check the table of contents as well as the index for your topic.

- Find a great article or book for your paper? Check out its citations! This can lead you to additional sources that may be perfect for your paper.

Notes on Plagiarism

What is plagiarism?

In addition to turning someone’s work in as your own, plagiarism is also taking someone else’s ideas/words/concepts/theories and passing them off as your own. This can happen in different ways:
Purposefully copying words/ideas without giving credit, or withholding full citation information
Failing to properly cite facts/ideas in your paper
Improperly paraphrasing (such as changing a few words, but retaining sentence structure)

How to prevent plagiarism:

- Take careful, organized notes during your research – keep track of what source(s) information/notes came from, and remember to note the pages.
- Consult with your prof if you have any questions as to whether something needs cited, or how to cite it
- Know how to properly paraphrase: https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/619/1/

Remember, if you need assistance, Ask a Librarian!