

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. As we are reminded in Proverbs 14:29, *whoever is patient has great understanding...*
- Remember when using the databases to use the limiters on the left side of the page (full-text, scholarly, dates, etc.) 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 works cited page! This can lead you to additional sources that may be perfect for your paper. You can search for articles in the databases, and check our catalog for books. Contact us for assistance if you can't find what you need!
- Make sure you're collecting all the information you'll need for citations as you do your research. If you are scanning information from books in the library, scan the front and back of the title page – the information you'll need to cite is right there.

