Library Research Services

- **Research Appointments**
  - Meet with a librarian to discuss research strategies and sources for your papers

- **Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad)**
  - Get books and articles that aren’t available at Oberlin

Make a Research Plan

- Determine what kind(s) of information is needed
  - books or articles or films, etc.
  - popular or scholarly or technical
  - primary sources or secondary sources

- Consider who is likely to be producing the information needed
  - scholars
  - journalists
  - professionals in a field
  - fans

- Determine which sources will help you find that information
  - library catalogs
  - databases
  - blogs or other open web sites

- Brainstorm terminology
  - be flexible and creative
    - how many ways can you describe what you are looking for?

- Search and then re-search
  - learn how to revise your search from each set of results
Summon is a library search engine for all subject areas that quickly pulls together all kinds of material – books, articles, videos, images, government reports, data, etc. It’s a great starting point for any topic and a place to dig up hard to find items.

Find Background and Context in Reference Sources
The Library has a wide variety of print and online reference sources in nearly every subject area. These articles are often helpful for finding terminology.

- Oxford Reference
- Gale Virtual Reference Library
- SAGE Knowledge

Find Books (and Other Library Materials) in OBIS and the OhioLINK Library Catalog
When looking for materials by topic be aware of the difference between search options:

- **Subject Heading**: searches for official Library of Congress Subject Headings only
- **Keyword**: searches for words or combinations of words anywhere in a record

Find Articles Using Databases
There is a database for almost every subject area – e.g. education, literature, music, history, religion, biology, etc.

There are databases for finding specific types of articles:

- scholarly journals
- magazines
- newspapers

Find Media Using Databases
Some databases provide access to videos, images, and sound files, e.g.:

- ARTStor
- American History in Video
- Naxos Music Library