



Library Research Tips

Determining the Information You Need

Does your instructor require a 2-page assignment or a 10 or 15-page essay?

Depending on the scope of your project, you may need only a few key facts from an encyclopedia or a website, or you may be asked to provide a comprehensive, detailed reporting on the topic. Comprehensive research involves consulting a large number of scholarly resources in the databases and library catalogue. You may need to seek out information in many formats: books, journal articles, websites, newspapers, videos, and more.

Are you being asked to provide your personal opinion or various points of view?

You may be able to present your own viewpoints clearly without reviewing a huge number of information resources. If you're providing varied points of view on your topic, you'll need to consult a wider selection of resources.

Is current information the focus of your research?

You may be looking for newspapers or other resources that provide information in a timely way. Other assignments require a more extensive search in which you examine historical documents covering a longer time period.

How much time do you have?

Your timeline will affect the number of information sources you can reasonably gather and consult. You may need time to locate and review specialized resources. Allow additional time to request items from other libraries through TALOnline www.talonline.ca or Interlibrary Loans www.nait.ca/library/837.

Visit the library website: www.nait.ca/library