Oklahoma City Community College Library

Research Pathfinder (MLA)

This pathfinder outlines basic research steps used to locate information.

1. **Select your topic**: ____________________________
   
   *Example: cybercrime. (For other topic ideas, follow your assignment, or look in the table of contents or the index of your textbook.)*

   **Other related subject words** that might be useful in searching your topic?
   
   *Related topics for this example: computer security, hacking, prevention, ethics, viruses, privacy concerns, identity theft, fraud, cyberbullying, United States__

2. Use the online Library Catalog to find a **BOOK** or **VIDEO** on your topic. Try the subject words or phrases you listed above.
   
   **Record the call number and complete citation for that book or video.**

   **Basic form:** Call number
   
   Author(s). *Book Title*. Publisher, Publication Date.

   Call number: ____________________________

   __________________________________________________________________________________

3. Use periodical databases to find **MAGAZINE**, **JOURNAL** or **NEWSPAPER** articles on your topic. Try either *EbscoHost* or *Opposing Viewpoints* to start.
   
   Find **TWO relevant articles**, and give a complete citation for each.

   **Basic form:** Author. "Title of Article." *Name of Journal/Magazine/Newspaper*, vol. #, issue #, Publication date, Page numbers. *Database name*, URL.

   a. __________________________________________________________________________________

   b. __________________________________________________________________________________
4. **Use Google or Yahoo! to find a useful Internet site on your topic.**

   a. Give the complete address (URL) of that web site:
   
   *Example: www.occc.edu/library*

   

   b. Website was last updated: ______________________

   c. Organization or individual that created the web page:

   

   d. Does this web page give you information appropriate for a research paper?
   
   Yes___ No___

   _Optional:_

For background information on your topic, use materials in the **REFERENCE** section. The *LC Outline* handout summarizes subject areas, and allows you to browse the Reference shelves.

   **List the call number and complete citation for one relevant Reference book.**

   *Example:

   GT 2850 .E53 2003

   Call number: ________________________________

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   ☀ Ask a librarian if you have other questions.