

# Distance Library Orientation and Research Tutorial

Selkirk College Library

# Tutorial Outline

1. Getting Started: Selkirk College Library Basics
2. Research Questions and Search Language
3. Evaluating Information Sources
4. Sample Search: The Library Catalogue
5. Sample Search: Library Databases
6. Research Workbook Assignment
7. Citation Help
8. Help / Contact Us

# Getting Started

Website: [library.selkirk.ca](http://library.selkirk.ca)

Search for print materials, Ebooks, and journal articles using the Discovery search bar, or the Discovery: Search All link (they are the same thing).

TIP: Please search our catalogue and not another from a library closer to home. We cannot properly grade your assignment if we can't replicate your search

The screenshot shows the top section of the Learning Commons & Library website. At the top is a dark red banner with the text "Learning Commons & Library" in white. Below this is a search bar with the text "DISCOVERY: SELKIRK LIBRARY COLLECTIONS" and a "Search" button. Underneath the search bar are three columns of links: "Find", "Help", and "About".

**Learning Commons & Library**

DISCOVERY: SELKIRK LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

Search

**Find**

- [Discovery: Search All](#)
- [Books](#)
- [Databases](#)
- [Videos](#)
- [Journals](#)
- [Interlibrary Loans](#)

**Help**

- [Citation & Style Guides](#)
- [Research Help](#)
- [Learning Success Centre](#)
- [Tutoring](#)
- [Writing Resources](#)

**About**

- [Contact](#)
- [Hours](#)
- [My Library Account](#)
- [FAQs for Students](#)
- [FAQs for Faculty & Staff](#)
- [FAQs for Community Members](#)

# Getting Started

<< **Refine Results**

**Current Search**

Boolean/Phrase:  
climate change

**Expanders**

Also search within the full text of the articles

Apply equivalent subjects

**Limiters**

Available in Library Collection

Book Catalogue

**Limit To**

Available in Library Collection

Academic (Peer Reviewed) Articles

Book Catalogue

1959 Publication Date 2017

Show More Options set

**Limit by Source Type**

All Results

Books (141)

Videos (17)

Conference Papers (8)

Electronic Resources (8)

eBooks (7)

Our collection is small, so start with broad, general search terms. The **Research Starter** can be a good place to orient yourself within your topic.

To limit search results to books, DVDs and eBooks in our collection, check book catalogue under **Limit To**

To limit search results to eBooks, check eBooks under **Limit by Source Type**

Library Databases Journals Search My Ebsco Account Folder Lang

Selkirk College Search Discovery: Selkirk Library Collections

climate change Select a Field (option... Search Clear

AND Select a Field (option... AND Select a Field (option... + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

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**Limit by Source Type**

All Results

Books (141)

Videos (17)

Conference Papers (8)

Electronic Resources (8)

eBooks (7)

**Search Results: 1 - 20 of 160** Relevance Page Options Share

**Research Starter**  
**Climate change theories.**  
Earth's climate is a complex system in constant flux. An understanding of how those changes occur has emerged in recent decades. This insight has... [More](#)  
Salem Press Encyclopedia of Science, 2016  
**Other Topics:** [Climate change](#) and oceans., [Climate change](#) and human health., [Economics of Climate Change](#).

1. **Climate change : what everyone needs to know / Joseph Romm.**  

By: Romm, Joseph J., Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, [2016] xxv, 302 p. : ill., maps ; 22 cm. Language: English, Database: Selkirk College Library  
**Subjects:** Climatic changes -- Health aspects; Climatic changes -- Economic aspects; Human beings -- Effect of climate on; Global warming

[Retrieve Catalogue Item](#)

Location	Call No.	Status	Due Date
CASTLEGAR	WB 700 R66 2016	NEWBOOKS	NEVER

2. **Climate change [videorecording] / producer, Gary Niesner ; director, Chris Triffo.**  

Regina : Partners in Motion, [2005] ; [Montreal, Quebec] : National Film Board of Canada [distributor]. 1 videodisc (8 min., 30 sec.) : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in. (DVD) Language: English, Database: Selkirk College Library  
**Subjects:** Climatic changes -- Canada; Greenhouse gases -- Canada

[Retrieve Catalogue Item](#)

Location	Call No.	Status
CASTLEGAR	QC 981.8 C5 C53 2005	DVD

# Getting Started

**Refine Results**

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Boolean/Phrase:  
climate change

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Also search within the full text of the articles

Apply equivalent subjects

**Limiters**

Available in Library Collection

**Limit by Source Type**

Academic Journals

Magazines

Trade Publications

Clear All

**Limit To**

Available in Library Collection

Academic (Peer Reviewed) Articles

Book Catalogue

1769 Publication Date 2018

Show More Options set

**Limit by Source Type**

All Results

Academic Journals (479,801)

Magazines (150,895)

Trade Publications (58,994)

News (42,396)

Reviews (41,069)

Click on the icons to access HTML or PDF full text articles

Check *Academic (Peer Reviewed) Articles* if you need peer reviewed sources for your assignment

Use the date slider to limit your results to recent articles

To limit search results to journal articles check *Academic Journals, Magazines, and Trade Publications* under **Limit by Source Type**

Library Databases Journals Search My Ebsco Account Folder Language

Selkirk College Search Discovery: Selkirk Library Collections

climate change Select a Field (option... Search Clear ?

AND Select a Field (option... AND Select a Field (option... + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

**Refine Results**

**Current Search**

Boolean/Phrase:  
climate change

**Expanders**

Also search within the full text of the articles

Apply equivalent subjects

**Limiters**

Available in Library Collection

**Limit by Source Type**

Academic Journals

Magazines

Trade Publications

Clear All

**Limit To**

Available in Library Collection

Academic (Peer Reviewed) Articles

Book Catalogue

1769 Publication Date 2018

**Search Results: 1 - 20 of 696,534** Relevance Page Options Share

1. **Sleepwalking into Catastrophe: COGNITIVE BIASES AND CORPORATE CLIMATE CHANGE INERTIA.**

By: Mazutis, Daina; Eckardt, Anna. California Management Review. Spring2017, Vol. 59 Issue 3, p74-108. 35p. 1 Diagram, 2 Charts. DOI: 10.1177/0008125617707974. Database: Business Source Complete

**Subjects:** Decision making in business; Industrial policy; Business enterprises & the environment; Business planning; Executives -- Psychology; Executive ability (Management); Strategic planning; Administration of General Economic Programs; **Climate change**; Cognitive bias; Sustainability; Prevention of **global warming**

PDF Full Text (1.2MB)

2. **MANAGING CLIMATE CHANGE: LESSONS FROM THE U.S. NAVY.**

By: REINHARDT, FOREST L.; TOFFEL, MICHAEL W. Harvard Business Review. Jul/Aug2017, Vol. 95 Issue 4, p102-111. 10p. 9 Color Photographs, 1 Illustration, 2 Charts. Database: Business Source Complete

**Subjects:** MANAGEMENT; Business enterprises & the environment; United States. Navy; Defence services; National Security; **Climate change**; **Climate change** -- Social aspects; Military planning -- United States; Naval bases; Adjustment (Psychology)

HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (15.6MB)

3. **Response of Runoff and Sediment Yield from Climate Change in the Yanhe Watershed, China.**

By: Feng, Zhaohong; Li, Peng; Wang, Dan; Cheng, Shengdong; Gong, Junfu; Ren, Zongping. Journal of Coastal Research. Summer2017 Special Issue, Vol. 80, p30-35. 6p. DOI: 10.2112/SI80-006.1. Database: Academic Search Complete

**Subjects:** CLIMATE change; GLOBAL warming; EVAPORATION (Meteorology); PRECIPITATION (Meteorology); LOESS Plateau (China)

PDF Full Text (592KB) PlumX Metrics

4. **Climate change helplessness and the (de)moralization of individual**

# Getting Started

Website: [library.selkirk.ca](http://library.selkirk.ca)

Some of our databases are easier to search individually, such as JSTOR (humanities) and CBCA (news and current events). By clicking on **Databases** you will find an A-Z list of all the databases we subscribe to.

TIP: You must login to access Library databases. Use your campus wide login (CWL) – the same login you use to sign in to Moodle.

The screenshot shows the top of the Learning Commons & Library website. At the top is a dark red banner with the text "Learning Commons & Library" in white. Below this is a search bar with the text "DISCOVERY: SELKIRK LIBRARY COLLECTIONS" and a "Search" button. The main content area is divided into three columns: "Find", "Help", and "About". Under "Find", there are links for "Discovery: Search All", "Books", "Databases", "Videos", "Journals", and "Interlibrary Loans". Under "Help", there are links for "Citation & Style Guides", "Research Help", "Learning Success Centre", "Tutoring", and "Writing Resources". Under "About", there are links for "Contact", "Hours", "My Library Account", "FAQs for Students", "FAQs for Faculty & Staff", and "FAQs for Community Members". The "Databases" link is highlighted with a green box.

## Learning Commons & Library

DISCOVERY: SELKIRK LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

### Find

[Discovery: Search All](#)

[Books](#)

[Databases](#)

[Videos](#)

[Journals](#)

[Interlibrary Loans](#)

### Help

[Citation & Style Guides](#)

[Research Help](#)

[Learning Success Centre](#)

[Tutoring](#)

[Writing Resources](#)

### About

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[My Library Account](#)

[FAQs for Students](#)

[FAQs for Faculty & Staff](#)

[FAQs for Community Members](#)

# What makes a good research question?

A good research question should be:

- **Clear:** What issue or problem are you exploring? Who does your issue or problem affect? What specific effects will you write about?
- **Focused:** What is the scope of your research? Is your topic too broad or too general?
- **Complex and arguable:** Are you making an argument or saying something about your topic, or are you merely reporting on already well-known facts?

# Forming a Research Question

Not-so-good research questions		Good research questions	
<b>Unclear</b>	“Is the Internet bad for kids?”	<b>Clear</b>	“What are US schools doing to combat teen bullying on social networking websites like Facebook?”
<b>Unfocused</b>	“What are the positive and negative effects of making gambling legal?”	<b>Focused</b>	“Has legal casino gambling in Canada led to an increase in rates of gambling addiction?”
<b>Simple</b>	“Is eating too much junk food bad for you?”	<b>Complex</b>	“Has the advertising of high-sugar foods on television contributed to an increase in obesity among Canadian children?”

## Good Research Question = Good Search Terms

- Remember, the catalogue and databases don't work like Google – you can't type full sentences or questions into the search bar.
- It's important to start with a good research question, because when you do your catalogue and database searches, you need to use keywords from your research question as search terms in order to find books and articles.
- Your key words should be based on the main ideas, concepts, and people / things (so they are usually nouns) in your research question.

# Choosing Useful Search Terms

Sample Research Question: “Is the Internet bad for kids?”

Internet	This term is ok to use, but it’s better to be as specific as possible. What Internet application (social media, blogs) will you research?
Bad	Avoid adjectives – particularly terms like bad, positive, etc. that may bias your search results – and words that are too general.
Kids	Avoid slang terms. What words might an expert or professional writer use?

## Choosing Useful Search Terms: Using Synonyms

When you do your searches, it's important to think of other words you can use if you don't get many results the first time you do a search. Try to think of as many synonyms or related terms as you can for your keywords.

Keyword	Alternative keyword
Schools	High schools; American schools; educators
Bullying	Hazing; intimidation; peer violence; teen violence
Teenagers	Adolescents; youths
Facebook	Social media sites; social networking sites; online social networks.

## Combining Search Terms: AND / OR Searches

Combine your search terms using the word AND to narrow your results and tell the database that ALL search terms you've used must be present in the results list.

Example: Bullying AND Teenagers AND Facebook

Example: Cloning AND humans AND ethics

Combine your search terms using the word OR to connect two or more similar concepts (synonyms); broaden your search results, telling the database that ANY of your search terms can be present in the resulting records.

Example: Bullying OR peer violence OR Hazing

Example: Cloning OR genetics OR reproduction

# Keyword Search Vs. Subject Search

Keyword	Subject
Natural language words describing your topic. A good way to start your search.	Pre-defined "controlled vocabulary" words assigned to describe the content of each item in a database or catalog.
More flexible for searching. You can combine terms in any number of ways.	Less flexible. You must know the exact controlled vocabulary term or phrase.
Database looks for keywords anywhere in the record (title, author name, subject headings, etc.).	Database looks for subjects only in the subject heading or descriptor field, where the most relevant words appear.
Often yields too many results.	If a subject heading search yields too many results, you can often select subheadings to focus on one aspect of the broader subject.
Often yields many irrelevant results.	Results are usually very relevant to the topic.

# Evaluating Search Results

Carefully evaluate every source of information you will use in your paper. Use the following criteria to guide your evaluation:

Peer – reviewed / scholarly source	Non-scholarly source
Created to educate and to share research results	Created to entertain or to convey general information
Written by experts and reviewed by other experts	Written by a non-expert author or journalist
Written for academic faculty, students, and researchers	Written for the general public
College / university level writing; technical language	Non-technical language
From an academic journal or a scholarly publication; an academic monograph	From a magazine, newspaper or non-academic work

# Evaluating Search Results

<b>WHO: AUTHORITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Authors and their credentials (i.e. PhD, MD) must be clearly identified.</li><li>• Authors must be credible. Consider whether the author is a scholar, researcher, and/or practitioner in the subject area.</li><li>• If there is no author, the source may not be credible.</li></ul>
<b>WHAT: CONTENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information must appear to be valid and well researched.</li><li>• Is the information consistent with information from other sources? If it contradicts other sources, investigate further.</li><li>• Authors should indicate their research methods and provide supportive evidence for their conclusions.</li><li>• There must not be any errors (spelling, grammatical or otherwise).</li><li>• Should have a bibliography or reference list.</li><li>• Note whether the document has gone through an editorial or peer review process.</li><li>• If the document exists both in print and online note whether it is the entire document or just an excerpt that you have in hand.</li></ul>
<b>WHERE: SCOPE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who is the intended audience for this resource?</li><li>• What does the URL indicate about the scope and/or purpose of this resource (e.g. .com for commercial resources, .ca for Canadian sites, .edu for educational sites, .gov/gc.ca for government sites, etc.)</li></ul>
<b>WHEN: CURRENCY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• In fields such as biology, it is important that your information is current (typically within the last 5 years) and has not been superseded by other research. Check the publication date of the source.</li><li>• If there is no date indicated, it may not be wise to use.</li></ul>
<b>WHY: OBJECTIVITY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is the source objective? The author(s) should be trying to inform you, not trying to persuade you of something or sell you something.</li><li>• The information should be fact, not opinion.</li></ul>

## Sample Search: Library Catalogue

**TIP: Keep your search language simple and broad. Our Library's catalogue is small, but valuable.**

**Towards Educational Justice: The Impact of Poverty on Learning and Social Inclusion in Elementary School Children with Disabilities in Canada**

### Search Terms

Education

Poverty

Children

School

## Sample Search: Article Databases

**TIP: Article databases have a lot of good content. You can be more specific with your search language.**

Towards Educational Justice: The Impact of Poverty on Learning and Social Inclusion in Elementary School Children with Disabilities

Education

Poverty

Children

Elementary school

Socio-economic factors

Children with disabilities

Academic achievement

Social inclusion

Economic development

Achievement gap

Social justice

Sustainability

Teacher influence

Coping

## My Research Log Assignment

You have completed the informational tutorial. You are now ready to start the Research Workbook Assignment. Please note the following:

- A. Read the assignment instructions carefully – it is extremely systematic as long as you read the directions
- B. Available from your Moodle site
- C. Please submit via Moodle like any other assignment
- D. Marked by a librarian
  - i. We provide comments and help
- E. Can and should be applied to your research topic for this class – make it as practical as possible
- F. Questions? Please send us an email at [reference@selkirk.ca](mailto:reference@selkirk.ca)

## Citation Help

- Citation help is available from the Library or from your instructors
- Providing a citation helps you to avoid plagiarism and so ask for help if you need it!
- Citation Quick Guides are available from the Library's website
  - [Help > Citation and Style Guides](#)

## Contact Us

If you need help with research, ask a Librarian

Gregg Currie, College Librarian

Sian Landis

Ken Laing

- [reference@selkirk.ca](mailto:reference@selkirk.ca)
- [AskAway – Virtual Reference](#)
- PH: 1.800.953.1133, ext. 229