Welcome to the Library, the place to start and complete all your research needs! Here are some of the essential steps required for academic research.

**DEFINING YOUR TOPIC:** Think about the main **concepts** and **keywords** that describe your topic. These keywords will form the basis for searching and finding information about your topic in the library catalogue, online databases, and other resources.

For the research topic “What is the relationship between violence and the media?” we might use keywords such as: violence, brutality, media, television, tv

**SEARCHING STRATEGIES:** When doing research, use **AND** to connect two different concepts. **Example:** violence AND media

**SELECTING & LOCATING RESOURCES:** Think about what type of **information** you need for this research.

**Dictionaries and Encyclopedias** are a great place to start your research and are helpful for finding definitions, overviews, background information and basic facts.

1. Start at the GBC Library website, then click **Find Materials**
2. Click **Dictionaries & Encyclopedias**
3. To access a specific resource, click on the title (Example: Encyclopedia Britannica)

**Your library login is required for off-campus access to library databases, check here for details.**

Once you have some background information, you may want to move onto more focused coverage of a topic.

**Books and E-books** can be found through the Library Catalogue and provide *in-depth information, related topics and historical discussions.*
Check out our "How to Find a Book" tutorial or use our Search Tips for details on how to search the Library Catalogue by: Keyword, Author, and Title.

**Articles** are helpful for finding highly specific information on a topic, new research in the field, and information on current events. To locate articles, you will need to search within a database. Select a library database that covers your general subject area. For step by step instructions, check out our tutorial “How to Find an Article”!

**Websites** are also useful resources but remember, when searching the internet it is very important to critically evaluate the information you find. Check out some recommended websites by subject using our Research Guides and check out our guide on Evaluating Websites for helpful hints!

**CITING YOUR SOURCES** is an essential part of college research. Any information (including ideas!) that you did not create yourself must be credited using a citation method. Check out our guides to citation styles, including APA and MLA as well as our citation tutorials.

**If you have any questions please let us know, the library is here to help:**

- via email
- via chat
- via phone
- in person
- TTY

http://library.georgebrown.ca/

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