

## Research Process

### Step 1: Develop a Search Strategy

- Check your textbook or Wikipedia to find search terms.
- Use a dictionary or thesaurus to find synonyms and related terms.
- Use Boolean operators, truncation and phrase searching to create a search strategy.

### Step 2: Choose a database

- Do a search to see if this looks to be a good database for the topic. You may need to try several.
- If you find one good journal article, check the subject headings and descriptors for more ideas.
- If there is a thesaurus for the database you are using, search for your terms in it.

### Step 3: Revise your strategy as you get new information. Research is a process.

### Step 4: Not finding what you need? Ask a librarian for help.

## Steps in finding a periodical in the Milligan Library:

1. Go to the Milligan Library homepage. Click on *Print & Electronic Periodical Holdings*.
2. Click on *Electronic Periodicals*. If the article is available full-text in a database, it is listed here. Search by the journal name to check. Not there, move to #3.
3. Click on *Print Periodicals List*. If Milligan subscribes to the journal in print, it is listed here. Search by the journal name to check. Not there, move to #4.
4. Make an ILL request. Click *Interlibrary Loans*. Click on the *Journal Request* link. Journal articles typically arrive faster than books. They *average* 1 week to arrive.

## Selected Citation Resources (From best to worst)

*With any of these citation creators, you are ultimately responsible for proofreading and checking that the citation is correct.*

- **Zotero—Free, GREAT for everyone**

Depending on your experience with computers, you may need more detailed instructions from me to download Zotero

1. If you have not already done so, download the Mozilla/Firefox browser.

<http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/>

Currently Zotero will not work with Internet Explorer

2. Download Zotero from <http://www.zotero.org/>

I found it took a very long time (5-10 minutes) for the page to fully load, so that you can see the download button.

3. Download the Microsoft Word plug in from:

[http://www.zotero.org/documentation/microsoft\\_word\\_integration](http://www.zotero.org/documentation/microsoft_word_integration)

- **RefWorks, Procite, EndNote—Fee, geared more to graduate students and institutions**

- **Database export—Style specific**

- **Database citations—Not Style specific—If you are not asked to pick a style, NEVER use the citation it creates.**