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**Research
Strategies**

1. [Getting Started](#)
2. [Finding Sources](#)
3. [Evaluating Sources](#)
4. [Writing and
Creating](#)
5. [Citing Your
Sources](#)

**HSCI 132:History of Preventive Medicine and
Public Health** **ARCHIVED - last updated 10/9/2011**

Professor John Schillinger

Assignment

Write short technical papers on health care
crisis or global climate change

**Developing a Search Strategy for Your
Topic**

What is your assignment prompt? What
questions do you need to answer about the
topic? Brainstorm for *keywords* and *key
phrases* that express the major concepts or
issues involved, including synonyms and
related terms.

Examples: Topic Prompt and Keywords

Topic/Prompt: health care crisis -
healthcare or health care or medical care

crisis or reform*

global climate change -
climate or climatic

change or changes

global or world or worldwide

**Finding Newspaper and Magazine
Articles**

The following databases and sources contain
many full-text articles from newspapers,
magazines, and scholarly journals from
around the country, and the world.

- [General Onefile](#): Articles from magazines,
newspapers and scholarly journals.
- [Academic Search Elite](#): Articles from
magazines and scholarly journals.
- [JSTOR](#): Articles from scholarly journals.

How to Cite Articles

- Determine which citation style to
use; the two most commonly used at
CSUN are MLA and APA. If your
professor didn't specify, pick one and
use it consistently.
- Check the sample style sheets ([MLA](#)
or [APA](#)) to see what information the
article citation should contain and
how it should be formatted.
- Be sure to indicate where material
you quoted directly or paraphrased
came from.

For more information, see [Citing Your
Sources - Plagiarism](#).

- [Lexis-Nexis](#): Newspaper articles
- [ProQuest Newspapers](#): Newspaper articles

Start at the library's home page, <http://library.csun.edu>, and click "Find Articles by Subject" Then click "General/Multi-subject" or "News & Current Issues" or "Health Sciences + Nursing" to access the databases above.

Evaluating Search Results

Once you find an article, it is important to critically evaluate it to see if you can use it for your research purposes. Listed below are things to think about when trying to determine the value of a particular article:

- **Skim the list of article citations:** Do your keywords appear in any of them?
- **Read article abstracts (or summaries):** How well does each article pertain to your topic?
- **What kind of information does each citation/abstract/article appear to provide about your topic?** Is it a research findings report, critical analysis, editorial or commentary, news report, or investigative report?
- **Consider the currency of each citation-** when was the article published? This will be more or less important, depending on your topic.

Evaluating Web Sites (should you believe everything you read online?)



What to look for (for a more detailed version go to: <http://library.csun.edu/Guides/ResearchStrategies/EvaluatingLibraryResources>)

- **Authority** - Who is the author? What's his/her background, education, experience? Would you trust the organizations they are affiliated with? Can you find contact information?
- **Content & Coverage** - What does it cover? Is it aimed at experts? Is the information relevant?
- **Timeliness** - When was it written? When was it last updated? Is the information still current?
- **Accuracy** - Can you check the information somewhere else? (Especially important for things like Wikipedia!) Has someone else reviewed the content? Does it include a list of works cited or other clues to how the information was found?
- **Objectivity** - Does the site have a bias? Are there advertisements or links to



organizations that might be a clue?

Accessing Library Resources from Off Campus

As a CSUN student you can access most databases from off campus, anywhere around the world. You just need to make sure you have your PORTAL username and password. When you click on a database from off campus, you'll see the following screen. When you've entered the ID and password information, you'll be redirected to the database



Digital Collections Pins



Cited at the Oviatt

[Celebrate Banned Books Week at the Oviatt](#)

[Peek in the Stacks](#)

[Segovia in the Sundial](#)

[What Fools These Mortals Be!](#)

[Mexican Independence](#)

Oviatt Library Twitter

ScholarWorks Twitter

LibAnswers FAQ

[Can patrons use personal scooters inside the library?](#)







[How can a community college professor get online access to the library database?](#)

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