Information Resources
Think outside the box.
Contents:

- evaluating resources
- topic refinement and research vocabulary
- tour of the Oviatt Library Website
- locate and manage resources in OneSearch
- subject preparation: useful resources
- create and manage citations

- links to services and assistance
Evaluating Resources

Essential questions to ask regarding the reliability of a resource:

- Who created the resource?
- What is the experience or qualifications of the author?
- Is the resource based on fact, opinion or propaganda?
- Does the resource express a particular bias or agenda?
- Does the resource list sources to support its statements (e.g. works cited list)?
- Has the resource been examined prior to publication, such as book reviews, an editor or peer-review (panel of experts)?

Additional info  Note: To see if a journal is peer-reviewed, see Ulrichs Web Global Serials Directory
Refine your topic – a review

- Make broad topics more focused
- Topical focus makes research manageable
- A focused topic informs what (and how) resources are used
  - Very recent topics ➔ newspapers, magazines, Websites
  - Established topics ➔ books, journals, films

**Example: Refine topic and target resources**
1. Broad Topic = *Media*
2. Narrower Topic = *Violence* in the media
3. Focused Topic = Media violence and *children*
Build your research vocabulary

Define the contours of your topic by constructing your research (thesis) question or statement:

- What are the effects of **media violence** on **children**? OR
- **Media violence** affects (or does not affect) **children**.

**Note:** Through research, seek to prove or disprove the **research statement**, OR supply an answer to the **research question**.

Build a vocabulary of similar or directly related search terms from the most descriptive words in your research question or statement:

- **media**: television, film, video games, comics, music
- **violence**: brutality, bloodshed
- **children**: kids, teens, adolescents

**These are your search terms you will use to locate information resources.** Consult a thesaurus to add synonyms to your terms, if necessary.

[Additional info](#)
### Applying the Research Vocabulary

**Boolean Search Techniques**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Venn Diagram" /> women OR Females</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Expands your search results to include those that have EITHER of two similar terms. Use <strong>OR</strong> to increase your number of results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Venn Diagram" /> women AND media</td>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Reduces the number of results by requiring that two terms appear together in a resource in order to be listed within the results. Use <strong>AND</strong> to filter out irrelevant results.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Venn Diagram" /> image NOT self</td>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>Filters out results for terms that are commonly associated. Use <strong>NOT</strong> with caution as you may unwittingly remove results you may otherwise want.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional info**
Bookmark the
Oviatt Library Homepage
Locate and manage resources
Oviatt Library Portal

OneSearch retrieves most types of resources (books, articles and more) in a single search. This eliminates having to search across many collections independently.

Enter search terms here

More search options:
Library Catalog | Journals | Audio/Video | Archival Sources | ScholarWorks

Alternative independent search of books, journals, and audio/video resources

Search archival collections, Finding Aids Database (FAD) and Digital Collections of the Oviatt Library and local archival materials

Search the CSUN Institutional Repository of faculty, student and departmental works

Watch video tutorial
Limiting and sorting searches

OneSearch Interface method – BOOKS AND MEDIA

- **Format**
  - Online (89)
  - Book (83)
  - Video (78)
  - eBook (11)
  - Sound Recording (2)
  - Serial (1)

- **Year**
  - 2010-2013 (28)
  - 2000-09 (114)
  - 1990-99 (16)
  - 1980-89 (3)
  - 1970-79 (2)

- **Subject Area**
  - H - Social Science (41)
  - P - Language and Literature (22)
  - K - Law (9)
  - R - Medicine (6)
  - G - Geography, Anthropology, Recreation (4)
  - L - Education (3)
  - Z - Library Science (2)

Results 1-10 of 164

Sort by: relevance | newest first | oldest first

**Children, Adolescents, and Media Violence: A Critical Look at the Research**

Book

By Kirsh, Steven J


Location | Call Number | Status
--- | --- | ---
Floor 2 | HQ74.M3 K5677 2012 | IN LIBRARY

Save this record

**Media Violence and Children: A Complete Guide for Parents and Professionals**

Book

Westport, CT: Praeger, 2003

Location | Call Number | Status
--- | --- | ---
Floor 2 | HQ74.V55 M43 2003 | IN LIBRARY

Save this record

You can save resource records to revisit later. Be sure to login (upper right) to save permanently.
Limiting and sorting searches

OneSearch Interface method – ARTICLES

Refine your search
- Scholarly only
- Full-text only
- Add results beyond the library’s collection

Format
- Any
- Journal Article (100,630)
- Book Review (13,242)
- Dissertation (12,519)
- Trade Publication Article (1,573)
- Report (977)
- Newsletter (439)
- Conference Proceeding (197)

Topics
- Any
- social sciences (9,694)
- psychology (6,784)
- education (6,564)
- women (6,531)
- violence (6,250)
- sociology (6,087)

Results 1-10 of 125,199

sort by: relevance

We found a couple of specialized databases that might help you.

- Studies on Women and Gender Abstracts
- International Political Science Abstracts

Media Violence and Children

Journal Article Peer Reviewed

Presents the results of the UNESCO global study on media violence and children which was conducted between 1996 and 1997. Highlights include the role of the media, media heroes as role models, media violence and aggression, differences by gender, rural versus urban environments, the pervasiveness of...

By: Groebel, Jo
Year: 1998
Published in: Educational Media International

Children and Media Violence

Book Review Peer Reviewed

By: Bryant, Jennings
Year: 1999
Published in: Aggressive Behavior
Useful Resources

- **Oviatt Library Subject Guides**
  - Suggested subjects for this class:
    - Sociology
    - Political Science
    - Urban Studies + Planning
    - California Studies

SUBJECT GUIDES and Tools

- [Africana Studies Resources](#)
- [Research Guide for Statistics](#) (Statistics Tutorial)
- [SFV Statistical Resources](#)
- [Using U.S. Census Data via American FactFinder](#)
- [L.A. County Zip Codes](#)
- [Annotated Bibliography](#)
Useful Resources

Suggested Databases:

- GEOBASE
- CountryWatch
- Black Studies Center
- JSTOR
- Social Sciences Full Text (H.W. Wilson)
- Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- Lynda.com (video training) (tutorial)

Books

Subject: Ethnology -- Handbooks, manuals, etc.
Subject: African Americans -- Social conditions -- 1975-
Subject: African Americans -- history
Subject: s:('african americans') and s:(community)
Title: The African American Electorate: A Statistical History
Citing Sources

- Use source citations to:
  
  - avoid plagiarism
  
  - demonstrate a strong understanding of the topic
  
  - strategically support your argument (stronger case)
  
  - allow readers to trace your line of reasoning
Create and manage citations

- Use the MLA, APA, Chicago and other style guides from the library Website to format and check your citations (in text and works cited) for any media type.

- Citations for books, audio/video and articles are located to the right of each record view for a selected resource.

Example citations from record view
Most article databases have tools to allow you to save or email a citation. The location of these tools differ between publishers. Try the following locations on the database Web page:

- Upper right or left corner
- Directly above the article
- Right or Left toolbars
The Oviatt Library offers these additional services:

- **Borrow and Renew**
- **Interlibrary Loan**
- **Course Reserves**
- **Computers and Laptops**
- **Imaging, Photocopying and Printing**
- **Study Rooms and Lockers**
- **For users with disabilities**

**Important services for undergraduates**
- **Student Guide to the Oviatt Library**
- **Map of the Library**
Personal Assistance

- Librarians are available to assist you through the following service points:
  - 24/7 “Ask a Librarian” chat service
  - Text a librarian (additional text fees may apply)
  - Reference desk
  - Subject Specialists

- I am also available for email reference and individual consultation by appointment. Please contact: stephen.kutay@csun.edu