

Finding Sources in the Library

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You're ready to begin your research, but where do you even begin? Although research can be intimidating at first, with a little practice and patience, you will soon be zooming through the internet, the library or dashing about a museum uncovering treasure troves of information.

Libraries:

Most of us have access to a public library and many have access to a college or university library. These are institutions that are supported by your taxes, so use them! The days of card catalogs are long gone, and you search for books using an online catalog. The catalog screens are usually very intuitive. If you cannot find what you are looking for or are not sure where to begin, librarians are very helpful. Libraries also have computers where you may search the web. If your library does not have the specific book available, many libraries borrow books from each other through an Interlibrary Loan, you can ask your local librarian for more information.

Even with keyword searches, sometimes it is hard to tell exactly what book you are searching for. Fortunately, similar books are grouped together. So, I use the catalog as a guideline, if I do not know exactly what I am looking for. Find a promising book through the catalog and look through the books surrounding it on the shelves. I have found some of my best resources this way.

One of the joys of our society is that so many of our populace are really interested in research and learning. Many members have highly specialized personal libraries and are more than happy to share that information. Ask around and see if anyone might have the book you are looking for. If you do find someone who has the book, bring your note-taking gear, because some are understandably reluctant to let an expensive or rare book out of their home.

Summary:

There are many resources available at your fingertips. Try to think of research as a journey—you find more information one step at a time. The more research you do, the more paths open up to you.

Selected Libraries:

Public Libraries:

- Flagstaff Public Library
 - <http://www.flagstaffpubliclibrary.org/>

- Glendale Public Library
 - <http://www.glendaleaz.com/library/>
- Mohave County Library at Kingman
 - http://www.co.mohave.az.us/library/mcld_-_kingman.htm
- Mesa Public Library
 - <http://www.ci.mesa.az.us/library/>
- Phoenix Public Library
 - <http://www.phoenixpubliclibrary.org/>
- Sierra Vista Public Library
 - <http://cochise.lib.az.us/sierra.htm>
- Tempe Public Library
 - <http://www.tempe.gov/library/>
- Tucson Public Library
 - <http://www.lib.ci.tucson.az.us/>
- Yuma County Library District
 - <http://www.yumalibrary.org/>
- Additional public libraries in your area can be found at:
 - <http://www.publiclibraries.com/arizona.htm>

Colleges/Universities:

- Arizona State University Library
 - <http://www.asu.edu/lib/>
- Cochise College Library
 - <http://www.cochise.edu/information/library/index.asp>
- Coconino Community College Library
 - <http://www.coconino.edu/library/>
- Glendale Community College Library
 - <http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/LMC/>
- Northern Arizona University Library
 - <http://www.nau.edu/library/>
- Pima Community College Library
 - <http://www.pima.edu/library/>
- University of Arizona Library
 - <http://www.library.arizona.edu/>
- Many more local college libraries