Selected Sources for Beginning Research

Selecting a Topic: Newspapers and magazines are great places to find ideas for topics.

Other useful sources are:

CQ Researcher
A wealth of information on current social topics can be found in these reports. Articles include background information, a chronology of events, pros and cons on the issue, and a list of additional sources. Highly recommended as a starting point for information on current topics. Available electronically by clicking the Top Databases for Finding Articles link on the Library homepage: http://library.unomaha.edu.

Taking Sides - Opposing Viewpoints –
Current Controversies – At Issue
These four series are created to present conflicting ideas on controversial issues and are excellent sources for persuasive and policy speeches. To find copies in our Library, use the Library Catalog as follows: click on the Advanced Search link in the “Books and More” tab on the Library homepage. Next to Title enter the series title (i.e. Taking Sides) and next to Format select Book. The call numbers will be different for each subject within the series. The newer items are located in the Writing/Speech Collection.

Contemporary World Issues
A comprehensive starting point for research on a topic. Includes an overview on the subject, a chronology, biographical sketches, facts and data, a directory of organizations, an annotated listing of sources for further research, a glossary, and an index. Search the Library Catalog for "Contemporary World Issues" for a listing of series titles and call numbers. Many of these titles are e-books so you can access them from anywhere.

Finding Magazine, Journal, and Newspaper Articles Using Electronic Indexes:

Academic Search Complete (EBSCO)
This multi-subject index searches more than 13,000 magazines and journals, with more than half the titles being full text.
**Lexis-Nexis Academic Universe**  
This service indexes major newspapers from all over the United States and the world, with most articles in full text. Use the “Search the News” box to find articles of interest.

**Access World News**  
Contains the texts of articles published in thousands of U.S. and World news sources, including the Omaha World-Herald and Lincoln Journal Star. Included are video clips from local TV stations’ news reports.

**Background Information**

**General Encyclopedias (Americana, World Book, Literati, etc.)**  
Brief articles on a multitude of subjects provide students with good basic information. These are located in the Reference Collection. Connections to Literati by Credo and general encyclopedias are available through the Library’s Research Guides. Type “encyclopedia” in the search box.

**Specialized Encyclopedias (i.e. Sports Rules Encyclopedia)**  
Find articles with more detailed information focusing on a specific subject. To locate a specialized encyclopedia, use the "Keyword" function of the Advanced Catalog search and type your choice of topics followed by "encyclopedia" (i.e. Rock Music encyclopedia). For online special encyclopedias, consult the Subject/Research Guides and type in the word “encyclopedia.” Select any appropriate keyword headings for your topic.

**Getting the Facts & Adding Interest**

**Proquest Statistical Abstract of the United States (Reference Desk HA202.P76)**  
This digest contains statistics dealing with all aspects of life in the United States. Usually the first place to look for statistics. Older editions (1878-2012) published by the United States Census Bureau (HA 202.S8). Also available online.

**World Almanac and Book of Facts (Reference Desk AY67.N5 W7)**  
Recommended as a quick fact-finding source. Includes sports statistics, election results, maps, brief biographies of noted personalities, census and economic information, vital statistics, metric tables, calendars, and a summary of important events from the previous year.

**(Bartlett’s) Familiar Quotations (PN6081.B27)**  
Bartlett’s is an example of a volume filled with quotations taken from a variety of sources. Quotations can add color and interest to speeches and papers. Available online through Bartleby’s at: http://www.bartleby.com. Also consider using Literati by Credo.

If you need any assistance, ask at the Reference Desk, call us at 402 554-2661, or use the Ask-a-Librarian feature located on the Library’s homepage.

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