HOW TO BEGIN RESEARCH

• Compile a list of subject key words. You will use them when researching.
  o Think of synonyms (words that mean the same thing)
  o Check the spelling! Searching in the library catalog or databases won’t correct your spelling.

• Start small. Find between 5-10 resources that match your subject. Analyze these sources for your paper before gathering more.

• Create a rough outline. Based on the information you have already collected, write down a summary of what you want to cover in your paper.

WHERE TO LOOK FOR INFORMATION

When should I use books?
• For in-depth overviews or historical background on a subject.
• Look for books using the Catalog on the Library website.

When should I use a database?
• For scholarly research articles that give specific case data or recent developments in an area
• Access databases from the Online Research tab on the Library website.

When should I use the Web?
• For demographic statistics or VERY current information that has not yet been published academically

NATURAL RESOURCES WRITING HELP

Handbook of Scientific Proposal Writing
Q 180.55 .P7 O78 2012

Making Sense: A Student Guide To Research and Writing in Geography and Environmental Sciences
G 70 .N67 2005

Preparing Literature Reviews: Qualitative and Quantitative Approaches
Q 180.55 .E9 P36 2008

Scientific Style and Format: The CSE Manual
In-Library Use Copy: Reserve Shelf

Want to set up a research appointment with a librarian?

Call the Library! (406) 275-4874

D’Arcy McNickle Library
http://skclibrary.skc.edu/

Salish Kootenai College
58138 US Hwy 93
P.O. Box 70
Pablo, MT 59855-0070

Phone 406-275-4875
Fax: 406-275-4812
Books

The following are Library of Congress Call Numbers for possible Natural Resources research topics.

**GB** : Physical Geography
- GB 400-64 Landforms, Terrain
- GB 651-2998 Hydrology, Water

**GE** : Environmental Sciences

**QE** : Geology

**QH** : Natural history – Biology

**QK** : Botany

**SD** : Forestry
- SD 388 Forestry machinery and engineering
- SD 390-390.43 Forest soils
- SD 390.5-390.7 Forest meteorology
- SD 391-410.9 Sylviculture
- SD 411-428 Conservation and protection:
  - Including forest influences, damage by elements, fires, forest reserves
- SD 430-559 Exploitation and utilization:
  - Including timber trees, fuelwood, logging, transportation, valuation

**TD** : Environmental Technology
- TD 169-171.8 Environmental protection
- TD 172-193.5 Environmental pollution
- TD 419-428 Water pollution
- TD 429.5-480.7 Water purification, Water treatment and conditioning
- TD 481-493 Water distribution systems

Want to Browse Print Journals?
- *Forest Science* SD 1.F655
- *Mountain Geologist* QE 79 .M6

Databases

**EbscoHost – Environment Complete**
- Recommended place to begin database research.
- Covers agriculture, ecosystem ecology, energy, renewable energy sources, natural resources, marine & freshwater science, geography, pollution & waste management, environmental technology, environmental law, public policy, social impacts, urban planning, and more
- Some top full-text journals are:
  - *Environmental Research Journal*: 2009-present
  - *Forest Science*: 2009-present
  - *Ground Water*: 2005-present
  - *International Journal of Environmental Studies*: 1990-present
  - *Journal of Environmental Hydrology*: 2007-present
  - *Water and Environment Journal*: 2006-present

**EbscoHost – Academic Search Complete**
- A comprehensive full-text database.
- Some top full-text journals are:
  - *Nature*: 1997-present
  - *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*: 2001-present
  - *Forest Pathology*: 1971-present

Websites

**Montana Data**
- Montana Natural Heritage Program: Published reports on Montana environmental research studies
  [http://mtnhp.org/reports.asp](http://mtnhp.org/reports.asp)
- Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

**National Data**
  [http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/](http://www.treesearch.fs.fed.us/)
- EPA Science Inventory: Searchable database of Environmental Protection Agency sponsored research
  [http://cfpub.epa.gov/si/](http://cfpub.epa.gov/si/)
- Science.gov: Searches over 55 databases and over 2100 selected websites from 15 federal agencies, including research and development results
- U.S. Geographical Survey Publications: USGS Quadrant Maps and other publications for download

**Tribal Data**
- Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes – Natural Resources Department
  [http://www.cskt.org/tr/nrd.htm](http://www.cskt.org/tr/nrd.htm)
- Intertribal Timber Council
- National Tribal Water Council
  [http://nationaltribalwatercouncil.org/](http://nationaltribalwatercouncil.org/)

Students: Want home access to Library databases? Call the Library for the username and password.