How to Begin Research

Compile a list of subject key words

Synonyms
Check the spelling
Start Small

Find between 5-10 resources that match your subject. Analyze these sources for your paper before gathering additional information.

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

**Books** - in depth overviews or historic background on a subject

**Database** - For scholarly research articles that give specific case data or recent developments in an area

**Internet** - for demographic statistics or current information that has not yet been published academically
Websites
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes-Fish, Wildlife, Recreation, and Conservation Department Natural Resources Dept.  
nrd.csktribes.org

Natural Resources Dept.-Division of Fish, Wildlife, Recreation and Conservation  
nrd.csktribes.org.fwrc

Montana Natural Heritage Program  
mtnhp.org/reports.asp

EPA Science Inventory is a searchable database of research products primarily from EPA’s Office of Research and Development.  
cfpub.epa.gov/si

National Wildlife Research Center  
Research Gateway: public database to publications by NWRC scientists  
aphis.usda.gov/wildlife

Science Direct  
Includes citations and abstracts for most academic science publications.  
sciencedirect.com

Science.gov searches over 55 databases and over 2100 selected websites from 15 federal agencies including research and development results.  
science.gov

Khan Academy  
khanacademy.org

Databases

**EBSCOhost Web**  
Academic Search Complete-comprehensive scholarly, multidisciplinary full-text database

**Environment Complete**-domestic and international titles going back to 1888

**GreenFile**-information covering all aspects of human impact to the environment.

**Ebsco Discovery Service**-381 databases to search Life Sciences

**Gale Power Search**  
Academic OneFile-peer-reviewed full-text scholarly content across the academic disciplines

**Environmental Studies and Policy Collection**-access to scholarly journals, magazines, and other reference sources covering environmental issues and policies

*Call 406-275-4875 for off-campus database access.*

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

Q: Science  
QD Chemistry  
QH Natural History - biology  
QK Botany  
QL Zoology  
QL 360-599.82 Invertebrates  
QL 614-639.8 Fishes  
QL 640-669.3 Reptiles/Amphibians  
QL 671-699 Birds  
QL 700-739.8 Mammals  
QR Microbiology

S: Agriculture/Conservation  
SB Plant Culture/Horticulture  
SF Animal Culture  
SH Fish Culture

Magazines
American Scientist  
QL 671 .A64

Audubon  
QL 671 .A82

Discover  
Q 1 .D57

National Wildlife  
S 964 .U6 N35

Northwest Science  
Q 1 .N6