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TIPS FOR BETTER LIBRARY RESEARCH (or how to help the librarians help you)

There are several things you can do to help your library research papers and projects go more smoothly.

If you keep in mind the tips below, it will help the librarians to help **you** more efficiently.

- 1) Make sure you understand the assignment. Don't hesitate to ask your instructor for clarification.
- 2) Bringing your syllabus with you to the library can help the librarians understand the assignment, too.
- 3) Be able to tell the librarian what you are looking for. If you can give us some keywords relevant to your topic, we can help you tailor the search to get better results.
- 4) How much information do you need? Is your assignment a short report, or a longer research paper / project?
- 5) Be sure you have the correct spelling of your subject / name / topic. Are there variant spellings, or synonyms?
- 6) Don't think **Googlepedia** is the end of your research. Be willing to use the library's many resources, and don't rely on just Google and Wikipedia. Our [A – Z Databases](#) page lists **dozens** of online resources.
- 7) Be willing to search in several places: the catalog, periodical databases, newspaper databases etc. You might be surprised how the same search in different resources can yield different results.
- 8) Be prepared to look closely at your sources to evaluate them.
- 9) If your professor asks you to find a specific book, DVD, or periodical article, be sure you have the correct citation information (such as title and author).
- 10) Don't wait until the last minute to do research for your assignment. It's a lot easier on everybody's nerves if you plan adequate time to research and complete your paper or project.

