

The Research Process, continued

Last Week

- Assessing Your Needs
- Preliminary Research Strategies
- Developing Your Research Topic/Questions

(also: create a preliminary outline as soon as you settle on a research question!)

4. Searching for information

- Where?
 - Internet
 - Library catalogs and databases
 - Anywhere else?
- Creating a strategy is important
 - Never search for a sentence or question
 - Pull out keywords, use subject headings
 - *PRO TIP*: write down your keywords/search terms

5. Gathering relevant information

- Not everything you find will be relevant
- Don't need to read thoroughly right now
 - Skim, read abstracts or summaries, check the table of contents and index, etc.
- Keep track of what you find
 - Email articles to yourself (**DON'T** copy + paste!)
 - Consider keeping a research log

6. Read what you've found

- Take notes
 - **DON'T** copy + paste!
 - Try using freewriting to summarize rather than paraphrasing
- It's OK to read a source more than once
- Begin to fit sources into your outline

7. Finish outline, draft, write

- Introduction
- Summarize/synthesize your sources
 - What do your sources say about your research question?
 - Sometimes this is called a literature review
- Your analysis
 - Figure out how to use data in your sources to answer your research question
- Conclusion