

Library Research Finding Relevant and Reliable Resources

Using tools and resources introduced in the Library Research Instruction sessions, gather the required information for four sources directly related to your research topic.

Submitting the Assignment

Scan your completed assignment and save it as a pdf. An easy-to-use scanner is available in the library's Reference Area. Upload the file to the Library Research Instruction Module on Canvas.

Completing the Assignment

You will locate each of the following:

1. A **Subject Encyclopedia Article** from a book found in the library Reference Area
2. A **Book** (hard copy or e-book) located using WorldCat (the library catalog)
3. A **Scholarly Journal Article** you can access in its entirety using a library research database
4. A **High-Quality Internet Resource** found on the open Web (not provided by PLNU)

Your Name: _____

Professor's Name: _____

Research Topic (be specific): _____

Key Concepts or Search Terms

These capture the main ideas of your research topic and may include synonyms for important concepts.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Source #1: Article from a Subject Encyclopedia

Subject encyclopedias are written for college-level researchers. Each article is written by an expert (or experts) and lists additional sources for further reading. Articles provide background or overview information.

Use the WorldCat tab on the [Ryan Library home page](#) to locate a subject encyclopedia in our library's reference area. Search the encyclopedia's index to find a specific article that provides background information for your research. Try a broad search like *human rights encyclopedias* or *psychology encyclopedias*. The librarians are happy to assist with this process!

Provide the call number from the label on the spine of the encyclopedia. The information should begin with the letter **R** and may include dates or volume numbers. Include all of the information from the label.

Call number: _____

How did you find it? Describe exactly how you searched for your subject encyclopedia. Include where you looked and the search terms you tried. Also explain how you found your specific article within the encyclopedia.

Provide the information necessary for citing this type of resource in MLA format:

Article author(s): _____

Article title: _____

Encyclopedia title: _____

Encyclopedia editor(s): _____

Edition (if given): _____

Date published: _____

Is it relevant? Explain how this source relates to your research topic. What unique information or perspective does this encyclopedia article add to your understanding of the topic?

Source #2: Book Available from PLNU

Use the WorldCat tab on the [Ryan Library home page](#) to locate a book, either a hard copy book on our library's shelves or a PLNU e-book available through WorldCat.

How did you find it? Describe exactly how you searched for your book. Include where you looked and the search terms you tried. Explain how you got to the book so you could actually read it.

Provide the information necessary for citing a book in MLA format:

Author(s): _____

Book title: _____

Publisher: _____

Date published: _____

Database (for e-books): _____

URL (for e-books): _____

Is it relevant? Explain how this book relates to your research topic. What unique information or perspective will this book add to your understanding of the topic?

Is it authoritative? Provide three specific clues about the author, publisher, or the information itself that demonstrate the credibility of this source. Explore the qualifications of the author and look for evidence that the information is accurate and up to date.

Source #3: Scholarly Journal Article from Ryan Library

Use the **ARTICLES** tab on the [Ryan Library home page](#) to locate a complete scholarly journal article. Use the tools available on your initial results screen to narrow or improve your search results.

How did you find it? Describe exactly how you searched for your article. Include the steps you followed, the search terms you tried, and any special options you selected. Explain how you got to the complete article so you could read or print it out. Librarians will gladly help with this process if you have questions.

Provide the information necessary for citing a scholarly article from a database in MLA format:

Author(s): _____

Article title: _____

Journal title: _____

Volume number: _____ **Issue number:** _____ **Date:** _____ **Page numbers:** _____

Database name: _____

DOI or Permalink: _____

Is it relevant? Explain how this article relates to your research topic. What does the topic of this article add to your understanding of the subject you have chosen to research?

Is it scholarly? Provide three specific clues about the authors, the article, or your search process that indicate the article is scholarly.

Source #4: High-Quality Internet Resource

Use a web browser like **Google** to search for a relevant, authoritative source that provides reliable information about your research topic. Use the browser's advanced search options to narrow your results effectively.

How did you find it? Describe exactly how you searched for the internet source. Include the browser you used, the search terms you tried, and any special search tools you used.

Provide the information necessary for citing an online source in MLA format:

Author(s): _____

Article/page title: _____

Overall site title: _____

Publisher/sponsor (if different from site title): _____

Publication/update date: _____ **Access date (if no pub. date is given):** _____

URL: _____

Is it relevant? Explain how this source relates to your research topic. What does it add to your understanding of the subject you have chosen to research?

Is it authoritative? Provide three specific clues about the author, publisher/sponsor, or the information itself that demonstrate the credibility of this source. Explore the qualifications of the author or sponsoring organization and look for evidence that the information is accurate and up to date.

Applying MLA Format

Select one of the four sources listed in this assignment and create a complete MLA citation for that item. Consult your course text, the library [citation cheat sheets](#), and outside resources like the [OWL at Purdue](#) for instructions. Search for additional information if your citation requires it. Write your citation carefully and **legibly**:
