



## Controversial Issues

### ➡ BOOKS:

Looking for books on your subject is an excellent way to get started with research. You can consult the [Library Catalog](#) to find books, videos, DVDs, etc. for information on your topic. If a book is located in the Reference area, it must be used in the library; plan to take notes or photocopy the information. Most books, however, are located in the book stacks; these books can be checked-out for three weeks and renewed twice.

#### Reference Books

Reference books can be useful for overviews of a topic. The information is concise, authoritative and often highlights specific aspects of a subject. The following reference book lists many possible topics along with brief pro and con statements.

***The Debatbase Book***

Ref PN 4181 .D3945 2007

#### Series Books

Series such as, [Opposing Viewpoints](#); [Current Controversies](#); [At Issue](#); [Information Series on Current Topics](#); [Contemporary World Issues](#), etc. are very helpful for information on controversial topics. Click on these series title links, or look for them by series title by doing a [Title](#) search in the library catalog. You can also search for series books on a particular topic by using the [Keyword search](#). Enter the series title, followed by the topic you are researching. For example, type *opposing viewpoints abortion*.

#### Circulating books

Circulating books can be checked out. They are located in the library's tall book stacks. Try a [Keyword search](#) using some of the important words or phrases that describe your research topic. For example: *garbage recycling* or *heart disease prevention*. For very broad topics, such as *drug abuse* or *global warming*, you might want to do a [Subject search](#) to find books that focus primarily on that subject.

### ➡ DATABASES:

Magazine, newspaper and journal articles provide current information on your topic. Most full-text articles also include the MLA or APA citation. The following are a sample of the many databases that the library carries. Articles that you find while on-campus can be sent to your e-mail to be read or printed later. You can also search the databases from home or any off-campus location. You will be asked to enter your name and seven-digit college ID number.

#### Issues & Controversies

This database specializes in current controversial issues. It gives overviews of topics, as well as statistics, tables and graphs, history, pro/con arguments, and more. You can browse lists of topics based on currency and subject categories. If you already have a topic in mind, use the Search box at the top of the page.

## [Opposing Viewpoints in Context](#)

There are many types of resources in this database - articles from magazines, academic journals, newspapers, viewpoint essays, statistics, websites, audio/video, and images. Are you undecided about which topic to choose? Click on the [Browse Issues](#) tab on the black tool bar for a link to a list of controversial topics. If you already have a topic, type it in the search box at the upper right corner of the page. Use the “Search within results” box on the left of the screen to add terms that will narrow your search.

## [Academic OneFile](#)

The contents of thousands of magazines and academic journals can be searched here using either an advanced or subject search. An Advanced Search will allow you to combine keywords to locate articles on specific aspects of a topic, such as *housing AND vouchers or subsidies*. On the other hand, a Subject Guide Search can help narrow a broad subject like *global warming* by providing a list of subdivisions, like *environmental aspects*. From the list of results, you can limit your search using options in the left hand column. The “Search within results” box allows you to add terms to your search, while options under “Your Results” allow you to select a specific content type such as “Academic Journals.”

## [Academic Search Premier](#)

This database is similar to Academic OneFile. It is not necessary to “select a field”; just type your search terms in the box(s). Options for refining your search to a specific date range or source type are available in the left hand column. You may also narrow your search by adding additional terms in the search boxes.

## [Newspaper Source Plus](#)

This database provides cover to cover full text articles from more than 40 major national and international newspapers as well as selective articles from more than 300 regional U.S. newspapers, such as the *San Jose Mercury News*. Full text radio and television news transcripts, from major networks, are also provided. Use the same search strategies as outlined above for *Academic Search Premier*.



## **WEBSITES**

Beware of the Web. If you are not an expert on your topic, don't just search using Google or Wikipedia. Click on [Find Websites](#) on the left hand directory of the Library home page; then, click the arrow on the **Best Websites** tab. Listed here are subject directories to find websites that have been evaluated by subject specialists, library professionals and library science students. You'll find fewer, but better quality, sites. You might also search our [Subject Guide to Recommended Websites](#).

### **Google**

Google is loaded with information – some excellent, some fraudulent. For help in evaluating what you find, go to [Web Evaluation](#) on the Library home page. Also, try some of Google's more sophisticated search tools, such as [Google Scholar](#) or [Advanced search](#).

## **ALWAYS REMEMBER TO ASK A LIBRARIAN IF YOU NEED HELP WITH:**

- Developing a search strategy appropriate to your assignment and thesis.
- Evaluating your sources and finding additional resources.
- [Citation Help](#)