Philosophy

BOOKS:
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.

Reference Books
Reference books can be useful for overviews of a topic. The information is authoritative and often highlights specific aspects of a subject.

The Encyclopedia of Philosophy
Ref B51.E53 2006
Articles written by world-renowned philosophers and scholars. Topics range from individual thinkers to concepts and branches of philosophy.

Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics
Ref BL31.E
Scholarly articles on all the religions of the world and systems of ethics and moral practices.

New Dictionary of the History of Ideas
Ref CB9.N49 2005
This multi-volume work encapsulates the thinking of an era, bringing a global perspective to timeless questions about the individual and society.

World Philosophers and Their Works
Ref B104.W67 2000
Covers 226 of the world's greatest philosophers, including biographical essays and overviews of each philosopher's representative works.

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: existentialism or Neoplatonism. For very broad topics, such as Philosophy - History or metaphysics, you might want to do a Subject search to find books that focus primarily on that subject.

Library of Congress Class B – Philosophy, Psychology, Religion,
Subclass B Philosophy (General)
Subclass BC Logic
Subclass BD Speculative philosophy
Subclass BF Psychology
Subclass BH Aesthetics
Subclass BJ Ethics
Subclass BL Religions. Mythology. Rationalism
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.

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. On the other hand, a Subject Guide Search can help narrow a broad subject by providing a list of subdivisions. 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.

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.

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