



Marriage and Family

This handout will show you how to find the best information in the shortest amount of time. You will be able to use it as a framework for most of the research that you will do in college. Remember that librarians are your partners in research; they can guide you from beginning to end during your project.

Books: Looking for books on your subject is an excellent way to get started with research. You will consult the [library catalog](#) to find books, videos, DVDs, etc. for information on your topic.

Reference Books are useful for overviews of a topic. The information is current, concise, and often highlights specific aspects of a subject. Reference books must be used in the library; plan to take notes or photocopy the information. Here are some reference books that might help you with this assignment:

The American Family; Reflecting a Changing Nation

Ref HQ 536 .A44 2005

Families of the World

Ref HQ 518 .T6813 2v.

Gale Encyclopedia of Childhood & Adolescence

Ref HQ 772 .G27 1998

Marriage Customs of the World; from Henna to Honeymoons

Ref GT 2690 .M65 2004

Parenting A to Z; a Guide to Everything from Conception to College

Ref HQ 769 .F717 1996

Weddings; Dating & Love Customs of Cultures Worldwide

Ref GT 2665 .M76 1999

Circulating books can be checked out. They are found in the library's bookstacks. Books develop a topic in detail. Try some of these words and phrases in the subject search box of the library catalog:

Family - United States

Marriage - United States

Single parents

Work and family

Working mothers

Children - United States

Child care - United States

Husband and wife

Man-Woman Relationships

Divorce - United States

Custody of Children

Parent and child

Child rearing

Sex role - United States

Children of Divorced Parents

Dating (Social customs)

Same-sex Marriage

Children of Single Parents

Databases: Magazine, newspaper and journal articles provide current information on your topic. They can be found through the library's Database page. The following are just a few that the library subscribes to. You can also search the databases from home.

Issues and Controversies

This database specializes in current and controversial issues. It gives overviews of topics, as well as statistics, tables and graphs, history, pro/con arguments and more. Enter a topic in the "Search" box, or browse through the "Subject Index" to get some ideas.

Expanded Academic ASAP

Magazines and academic journals are found here. Start with a "Subject Guide Search" to find many articles on a subject. Then, try an "Advanced Search" to find articles on a specific aspect of a topic.

LexisNexis

For current news events, whether local or distant, try this database. It contains full-text articles from United States and international newspapers. It is especially useful for finding articles from **The New York Times, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the San Jose Mercury News**. Just click on the links to these specific newspapers, or use the general link for LexisNexis.

WEB SITES:

Beware of the Web. If you're not an expert on your topic, don't just search using Google. Try one of the subject directories linked from the library home page. Click on [Research Aids](#) on the left-hand margin; then, select [Best Websites](#) to find websites that have been evaluated by subject specialists. You'll get fewer, but better quality sites.

IPL2 (Internet Public Library)

Subject index for to Internet resources.

INFOMINE

Sources suitable for academic research; selected by UC Riverside.

Google

Try some of Google's more sophisticated search possibilities, such as [Advanced Search](#)

Use the "Search within a site or domain" box to limit your search to an educational (enter .edu) or government (enter .gov) site. Articles from educational or government sites may have more accuracy and authority.

Use the "File type" box to find a PowerPoint presentation on your topic. Click on "any format" and select "Microsoft PowerPoint".

Always remember to ask a Librarian if you need help:

- For assistance in developing a search strategy.
- To evaluate your sources and to suggest additional research options.
- For assistance with the [Works Cited](#) format.