

## FIND ARTICLES – [www.lib.utexas.edu/indexes](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/indexes)

**Peer-reviewed (scholarly) journal articles** may be useful for placing your local solution into a broader context. For example, if you are proposing vaccination clinics in a predominantly Hispanic neighborhood in Austin, you may find articles reporting on studies of vaccination programs in other communities or research articles about the impact of vaccination rates on public health in the medical, public policy or social work literature. **Articles from newspapers**, especially state and local newspapers, may help provide the context for the local issue and proposed solution. The Libraries subscribe to **databases** which allow you to search by keyword across multiple sources (journals, magazines, newspapers) for articles on your topic.

### Suggested databases:

- [Academic Search Complete](#) and [Academic One File](#) include a mix of scholarly and non-scholarly literature from across disciplines and are useful starting places for most topics.
- [LexisNexis Academic](#) provides access to local, state, national and international newspapers back to the early 1980s. See [Finding Texas News Sources in LexisNexis Academic](#) for help navigating this database.
- [Databases by Subject](#): Consider who would be researching your topic and choose a database for that discipline. For the example above, you may want to choose Social Services Abstracts.

### How to find and evaluate articles:



Step-by-step tutorial about finding articles  
[www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/findarticles.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/findarticles.html)

Popular Magazines vs. Scholarly Journals		
In order to choose the best articles for your research, you will need to understand the difference between popular magazines and scholarly journals and be able to identify them.		
	Popular	Scholarly*
Writer	Staff writers and journalists	Scholars/researchers
Audience	General public	Scholars, including college students
Reviewed by	Editor	Editorial board made up of other scholars and researchers
Article style/purpose	Shorter articles written to entertain, inform or elicit an emotional response	Longer articles written in a formal, scholarly style to share facts and research with the academic community
Documentation	None	Footnotes/endnotes; bibliographies
Frequency	Usually published frequently (weekly or monthly)	Usually published less frequently (quarterly, semi-annually)
Advertisements	Numerous ads for a variety of products	If there are any ads, they are usually for scholarly products such as books
Illustrations	Usually numerous	Fewer, and often include charts and graphs to support research findings
Appearance	Usually glossy and larger in size	Usually smaller in size, thicker and with a plain cover
Examples	Time, Psychology Today, Rolling Stone, New Yorker (magazines you may subscribe to or buy at a newsstand)	Journal of Southern History, Annual Review of Psychology, American Literature, New England Journal of Medicine

\* Scholarly sources may also be referred to as academic, peer-reviewed or refereed.

The difference between scholarly and non-scholarly articles  
[www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/popularvscholarly.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/popularvscholarly.html)

## FIND BOOKS & MORE – <http://catalog.lib.utexas.edu>

**Books** can be useful places to find in-depth information about the issue you are addressing with your proposal. To find books, including electronic books that you can read online, in the UT Libraries, use the [Library Catalog](#). For a step-by-step tutorial, see [www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/findbooks.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/findbooks.html).

Your Library Catalog search may also yield **government documents**. These include reports on issues or initiatives and congressional testimony and hearings (ex: *Improvements in U.S. Childhood Immunization rates : Hearing before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Appropriations*). More recent government documents are usually available online and a link in the Catalog will take you directly to the document.

**TIP:** Start with a keyword search for your topic.

### Search by Keyword



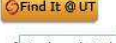
Type one or more **keywords**, then press the Enter

Keyword:  keyword is the default search option

Click on the title of a useful item and use the subject headings to find other items on the topic. If there is a GoogleBooks link, you can also check the book out online in advance of coming to the library.

**Title** The children's vaccine initiative : achieving the vision / Violaine S. Mitchell, Nalini M. Philipose, and Jay P. Sanford, editors ; Committee on the Children's Vaccine Initiative : Planning Alternative Strategies Toward Full U.S. Participation, Division of International Health, Institute of Medicine.

**Imprint** Washington, DC : National Academy Press, 1993.

 Limited Preview at   [Bookmark Link]

Click here to see portions of the entire book (limited preview) in GoogleBooks. It can help you determine whether or not the book is worth checking out.

Location	Call No.	Current Status
<a href="#">PCL Stacks</a>	<a href="#">RJ 240 C44 1993</a>	AVAILABLE

**Description** xiii, 221 p. ; 23 cm.

**Note** Support provided by the Agency for International Development, the Dept. of Health and Human Services, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association, the United Nations Development Program, and the World Health Organization, Children's Vaccine Initiative.

**Bibliography** Includes bibliographical references.

**Subject** [Vaccination of children.](#)  
[Vaccines.](#)  
[Immunization of children.](#)

Click on these subject terms to find other books in the Libraries on the same topic.

## FIND LOCAL INFORMATION, STATISTICS AND PUBLIC OPINION

**How to Find Local Information** - [www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/findlocal.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/findlocal.html)

In addition to considering the national or broader context for your issue, you need to get details about the issue on the **local level**. This information will ensure that you present an informed solution tailored to the issue in this community

**How to Find Statistics** - <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/findstats.html>

Statistics, both from the local level and nationally, will help strengthen your argument that the problem is, in fact, a problem. Statistics are particularly useful for determining what your measurable objectives should be. For example, if you discover that 50% of the children who try to enroll in public school but don't have the proper immunizations live in a particular community, it justifies your proposal to set up immunization clinics in that community. If you also discover that national studies show that one deterrent to immunizing children is that there are no local clinics, you can use this finding to justify your proposal.

Statistics are produced and collected by a wide array of entities. National, state and local governments, organizations and associations advocating for a cause, and scholars are just a few statistics producers. Sometimes looking for statistics can be like looking for a needle in a haystack – they may be published on a government website or in a peer-reviewed journal article, for example. If you can't find what you need, ask a librarian for help. See the Get Help section below for contact information.

**How to Find Public Opinion** - <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/findpolls.html>

Public opinion polls and surveys can provide insight into how people feel about an issue.

## EVALUATE WEBSITES

You can find a lot of great information with a Google search. Web sites of organizations and government agencies are just two types of sites that can provide a wealth of useful information for your issue. However, as with any information you find, you have to evaluate it for credibility and bias. The checklist at [www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/eval.html](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/students/find/eval.html) will help you choose which web sites to use.

## GET HELP

**Librarian for your course:**

Michele Ostrow, [micheleo@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:micheleo@austin.utexas.edu), 495-4534

Email or call with questions or to set up a time to meet for a research consultation

**Research help via Chat** – [www.lib.utexas.edu/ask](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/ask)

IM a Librarian until midnight, Sunday-Thursday

**Make Bibliographies with NoodleBib** – [www.lib.utexas.edu/noodlebib](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/noodlebib)

Set up a free account, enter your citations and it will format an MLA, APA or Chicago Style Works Cited list you can download as a Word document.

# RESEARCH LOG

1. Write down your topic and underline the key concepts.

2. Write the key concepts down at the top of each column and brainstorm other terms.  
List broader, narrower and related terms. Your search may only require 2 columns of keywords.

	AND		AND	
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____
_____		_____		_____

3. Resources found:

- Name of tool: (example: Academic Search Complete)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Search terms used: (example: vaccinations OR immunizations AND Hispanic OR Mexican-American)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Either email or write down the citation for one useful resource. If it is on the shelf in a library, write down the location and call number.

- Name of tool: (example: Library Catalog)
  
  - Search terms used: (example: vaccinations OR immunizations AND Hispanic OR Mexican-American)
  
  - Either email or write down the citation for one useful resource. If it is on the shelf in a library, write down the location and call number.
- 

- Name of tool: (example: Library Catalog)
  
- Search terms used: (example: vaccinations OR immunizations AND Hispanic OR Mexican-American)
  
- Either email or write down the citation for one useful resource. If it is on the shelf in a library, write down the location and call number.