

RESEARCH PROCESS

Guides for BUA 645 Position
Paper Research



STEP 2 SHARPEN YOUR UNDERSTANDING WITH LITERATURE SEARCH

Books are often ignored when we get used to searching online, while relevant books will give you both holistic view and detailed discussion. Try ebooks as well! Scholarly articles will provide concrete details, data, and arguments.

Tools: **URSUS** (library catalog), **Google Scholar** (at Fogler), Sage, Springer, ScienceDirect, Academic Search Complete, etc. Find more databases at library homepage - databases - by subject.

STEP 4 BACK UP YOUR ARGUMENT WITH AUTHORITATIVE DATA

It is necessary to go back to the data sources; make sure you have the most authoritative and up-to-date data to back up your argument.

Tools: **10Green**, **Climate Reanalyzer**, **IPCC Data Distribution Center**, **NOAA data**, **EIA data**, etc.

STEP 6 EVALUATE & SYNTHESIZE INFORMATION WE ARE ALMOST THERE!

Evaluate information based on Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose (CRAAP Test).

Synthesizing information and reconciling differences are the most challenging part of the analysis, while we are almost there!

STEP 8 DON'T FORGET TO CITE YOUR SOURCE AND AVOID PLAGIARISM

SEARCHING IS A STRATEGIC EXPLORATION

STEP 1 GET AN IDEA WITH GOOGLE SEARCH

After deciding your topic, industry and geography, start with a broad Google search. Keep an eye on well-written reports from government, nonprofits, and trade associations.

Tools: Google Advanced search by domain (site:.org, site:.gov, etc.), or format.

STEP 3 UPDATE YOUR FACTS WITH NEWS SEARCH

You can find more recent information, facts and opinions from news.

Tools: Maine Newsstand/ ProQuest Newsstand, LexisNexis Academic, New York Times, Wall Street Journal etc.

STEP 5 LISTEN TO DIFFERENT OPINIONS WITH TARGETED OPINION SEARCH

Pay attention to different opinions/arguments; intentionally search for these opinions.

Tools: Google; **LexisNexis** - Advanced News Opinion & Editorial Search.

STEP 7 OVERCOME EMOTIONAL CHALLENGES

It is common to feel overwhelmed, confused or frustrated during research. We should be proud of our persistence and determination to find answers and believe that our information has value.



Find the library guide at
<http://libguides.library.umaine.edu/bua645>;
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