IU South Bend Libraries



Library Research Strategy

This flowchart can help you formulate a plan for your research process:

this helps you focus, narrow, or broaden your search choose a topic

you may start with a
very specific research
question or a more
general topic that you
can refine as you look at
background sources
and conduct searches
on the internet or in
journal databases

review background sources to gain a general understanding of your topic, including important definitions and concepts

focus on terminology as you review sources

gather relevant info

finding good search terms helps with the steps below

for books and videos, use IUCAT

for journal, newspaper, or magazine articles, use Journal Databases other sources: web gov't publications statistical sources

are your results relevant?
if not, you may try rethinking your
research strategy

for help with any stage of this process, ask a librarian for assistance