

Jefferson Community College
Louisville, Kentucky
English 102
Library Research Pathfinder
(100 points)

Your name: _____

Your instructor: _____

Date pathfinder due: _____ Date research paper due: _____

Research is a process and this exercise introduces the structured steps of that process. Please do the steps in order and complete each question for full credit.

I. YOUR TOPIC: _____

Although you may modify and elaborate on this topic, please use it throughout the exercise. If you cannot locate any source on some aspect of your topic for the following questions, check with a librarian. All questions must be answered to get points.

II. **GENERAL ENCYCLOPEDIAS**

Encyclopedias provide basic information on a wide variety of topics and are often a good introduction to the people, places and events associated with your topic.

Locate an article in a GENERAL encyclopedia. Use the index in the last volume of the set to identify where to find information and new terms. Also, review the article outline, if available, to start organizing your thoughts.

Title of the GENERAL encyclopedia:

What basic journalistic questions did the encyclopedia article answer? Identify either the general questions answered (such as when an event happened), or the particular question (such as: Abraham Lincoln lived from 1809-1865)

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____ 4. _____

III. **REFERENCE MATERIALS**

Reference materials may provide more in-depth information and may use technical language specific to the field or academic discipline.

Find some information on your topic in a SPECIALIZED or SUBJECT encyclopedia, dictionary or handbook. Browse the reference stacks, use the online catalog or ask for assistance.

Title of specialized source: _____

How did you locate the reference source? _____

How does it compare with the general encyclopedia article used for question II?

IV. **BOOKS**

Find two book records (not the actual book) in an online catalog.

Book #1: Author: _____

Title: _____

List 2-3 subject headings from the full record description:

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____

Book #2: Author: _____

Title: _____

List 2-3 subject headings from the full record description

1. _____ 2. _____

3. _____

V. PERIODICALS (Magazines and Journals)

Conduct three different searches in EbscoHost and complete the following:

<u>Search term(s)</u> (example: coffee)	<u>Database title</u> (ex.: Academic search Premier)	<u>Number of articles found</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

Add 2-3 CITATIONS to the folder and print out the bibliography. There is no charge for printing working bibliographies with only citations. (Note: You must un-check the Full Text box. It should only have one page.)

VI. NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Search NewsBank NewsFile or the Courier-Journal and find an article on your topic.

Cite the article using MLA style. (See your textbook or the library handout for examples)

Author _____
Title of Article _____
Name of Newspaper _____
Date: _____
Database used _____
Brief URL _____

VII. INTERNET SOURCE

Find an Internet source that provides information on your topic, cite it using the MLA style, then evaluate it carefully.

Search engine used: _____

Online citation: _____

Evaluation:

Does the web site offer primary research and original sources or summarized information?
Explain: _____

What criteria would you use to evaluate the credibility of the information on this webpage? _____

How does the information on the web page compare with the other sources you identified in this research process?

Were sources on the web page cited? _____ yes _____ no

VIII. List 5 key ideas, concepts or terms in the order you might write about them for your research paper.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

IX. Briefly explain how this research exercise contributes to your understanding of information literacy. (See Information Literacy Competency handout)

X. Briefly evaluate this research exercise as a learning experience.

