Basic Steps:

- Choose a topic. Be specific. Narrow the topic, or focus on one aspect.
- Find general, definitive information on the topic, as in a subject specific encyclopedia.
- Locate articles and books on the topic.

“Ask a Librarian or Live Chat”

Call 608-342-1668
Toll free 888-450-4632
General Research Strategy

⇒ Search for books and e-books on the topic.
⇒ Use library web pages and databases to find journal or newspaper articles on the topic.
⇒ Consult general or specialized encyclopedias, like Van Nostrand’s Scientific Encyclopedia Ref Q121 .V3
⇒ Find information such as statistical data or maps. Try the links from the library’s Reference Resources web pages:
⇒ Consult biographical sources if you need information on a person’s accomplishments or professional activities. See databases: Biography Ref Bank Select, Biography and Genealogy Master Index

Use links found on the library’s Biographies web pages.

To Find Books

Use Search @ UW to find books or DVDs.

Access Search @ UW from the library’s web page.

Examples of searches in “Books & Media (UW Platteville)”: bioethics AND “united states”
engineer? AND handbook
psychology AND statistic?

Ask at the Reference Desk for help and for guides.

To Find Journal Articles

Many journal articles are available through the library’s web pages. Use Search @ UW and select “Articles” from the dropdown menu to the right of the search window. Librarians are available to suggest possible search strategies. You can also select databases and resources from lists found on library pages called Resources by Subject.

While most articles are available online, some still need to be located in print or on microfilm or borrowed from another library (ILL). To do so, obtain a full citation to the article. Printed or microfilmed journals are shelved alphabetically by title on the first floor.

Ask at the Reference Desk about ILL.

To Find Newspaper Articles

The Karrmann Library offers full text access to current and archived newspaper articles through, for example, Newspaper Source Plus and LexisNexis Academic.

Visit the library’s Newspapers and TV News page.

Examples of Statistical Sources

Statistical Abstract of the United States
Print format: Ref HA202

Injury Facts Ref HA217 .A4

Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics
Print format—library’s 3rd floor: Gov. Pubs. Dept. J 29.9/6: