Search strategies

Topic

What is your topic?
Can you state it in your own words?

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Keywords

What are the keywords for your topic?
Think of:

- Who is involved?
- What is it?
- Where is it?
- Why is this important?
- When did this take place?

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Start

Where should you start your search?

- If you are not sure of your topic, an *encyclopedia* is a good place to start.
- If there are words that you are not familiar with, a *dictionary* can help you.
- Check out *encyclopedias* for more information. Your library staff will help you select which encyclopedia to use.

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Select

Where would it be best to start your search?
A print book?
Which online product to use? Your teacher or library staff member can help you here.
Do not forget to check out websites at http://www.hcdsb.org
Choose *Students*, *Library* and then elementary or secondary. Start with *General resources*.

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Search

Try your search. Your teacher or library staff are here to help.

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Scan

Look at what results you get from your search.
Do the results look reliable?
Do they answer your question?
Do you see a term that is used more often than yours? This may be a better term or keyword to use.

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Use

If the results answer your topic, use them.

Revise

If the results do not answer your topic, revise your search and start again.

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Communicate and create How do you have to present your findings? If unsure, ask your teacher.