

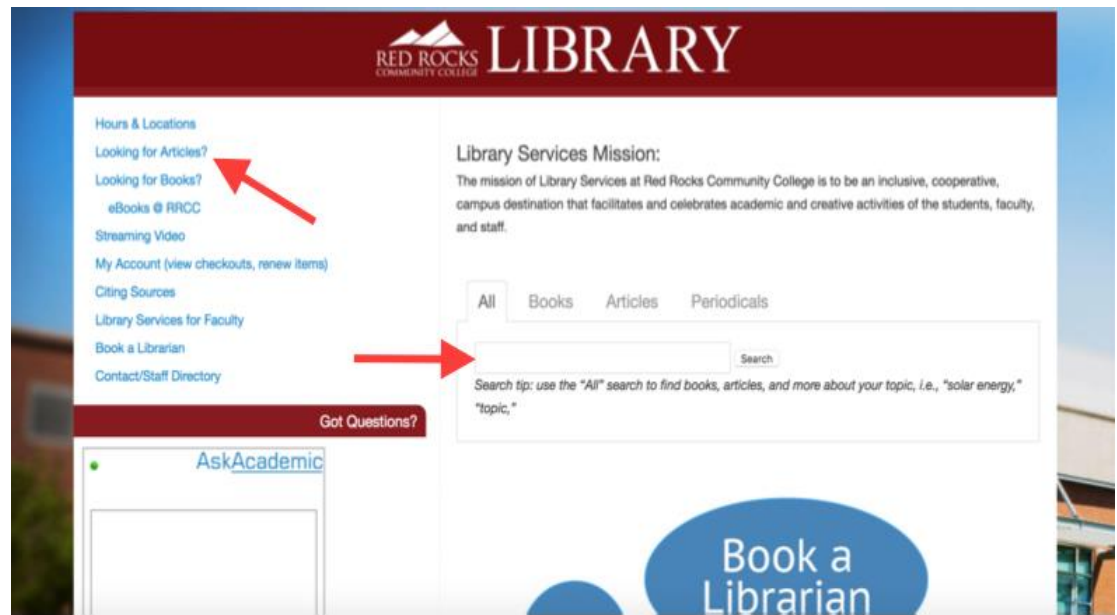
Research Starter

Choosing Your Topic

1. Ask yourself, "What are you interested in studying?"
2. Do a preliminary search to discover what information already exists on that topic
 - a. This could be as simple as conducting a Google search and using Wikipedia to get an overview of a topic OR
 - b. As complicated as completing a [literature review](#) to examine what academics have to say about your topic
3. Now ask yourself, "What questions do you still have on that topic? What could you contribute to the conversation?"
4. Build a [thesis statement](#) that asserts something about your topic

Looking for information

1. Determine what [type of information](#) you need to support your thesis
 - a. Do you need academic research articles? Do they need to be [peer reviewed](#)? Or can you use popular magazines or newspaper articles to answer your question?
2. Search the library's databases
 - a. RRCC Library Services provides access to a variety of general and subject specific databases that store information from a variety of periodicals
 - i. Begin your search on the [library's homepage](#) (<https://library.rrcc.edu/>)
 - ii. Search all of the library's resources using the "All" search bar OR
 - iii. Find subject specific articles on the [Looking for Articles?](#) page found on the left hand menu bar



- b. Use keyword searches and Boolean Operators

- i. When searching the library's databases you will need to use keywords rather than whole phrases
- ii. Use Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT) to connect keywords and narrow your search. For more information see our [Boolean Logic Guide](#) or check out [the video](#) on Boolean Logic.

Example of a Keyword Search:

Do Search	paleo diet AND health	avocado* AND benefit*
Don't Search	What are the health effects of the paleo diet?	What are the health benefits of avocados?

*For additional help finding or evaluating sources, schedule through [Book a Librarian](#) for a 30-minute one-on-one research consultation with an RRCC librarian.

3. Searching the Internet

a. [Google Advanced Search](#)

- i. Type "Advanced Google Search" in the search bar or go to Settings from Google Search Page and select "Advanced Google Search"
- ii. Use keywords and Boolean Operators to initiate your search
- iii. Use the site or domain limiter to limit search to .gov or .edu sites, or the usage rights limiter to search for free to use or share resources

b. [Wikimedia commons](#)

- i. Another source with images in the public domain (free to use or share)

c. Use the C.R.A.A.P. (Currency, Relevance, Authority, Accuracy, Purpose) test to evaluate website sources for credibility.

- i. Watch our 2 minute video [How to Spot Fake News](#) to avoid using disinformation

*View our [Research Starter Flow Chart](#) for a more visual representation of this guide.