Getting Started with Research Worksheet

Part 1. Research Topic

1. Use this space to write a sentence (or two) that explains the topic you will be researching for your assignment.

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2. Take a look at the sentence above. What are some key terms you can use to search for relevant books and articles? **Hint: Consider synonyms and alternative expressions.**

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3. Can you be more specific? Think of some terms that might help you NARROW your topic.

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Part 2. Finding Books

1. Start at the library’s home page, campus.albion.edu/library. Click on “Catalog: Books, DVDS...” in the menu on the left.
2. Using some search terms you identified above, search for a book on your topic.
3. Write down the item’s location and call number from the catalog record. This will help you locate the item in the Albion College Library.

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Take a look at the Subject Terms for one the books that came up in your search. Write down one, or more, of the subjects that might help you find more relevant books.

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Part 3. Finding Articles – Reference Databases

1. Use the *Gale Virtual Reference Library* database to locate at least one article on your topic. **Email the article to yourself** and then write the title of your article below:

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2. Using the Related Subjects links from the article you identified above (located in the left margin of the article) select a term that might help you locate additional articles? Select another article from your new results list and **email it to yourself**, then write down the title below:

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Part 4. Finding Articles – General Article Databases

1. Use the *OmniFile Full Text* database to locate at least one scholarly article on your topic. **Email the article to yourself** and then write the title of your article below:

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2. What is the name of the resource (journal, magazine, newspaper, etc.) wherein the article is published?

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3. Do you believe the resource you identified above is an academic or popular publication? How do you know?

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