

TIPS FROM THE REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

Hi! Here are some quick tips that might make things go a little easier for you at Davis Library.

I. IS ANYONE OUT THERE...?

If your class comes to the Library for instruction: Pay attention and ask questions! I'll be telling you the basic things that you need to know. Ask me to repeat myself if you miss something. Chances are good you'll be doing someone else a favor as well. The talks and presentations I give are meant to save everybody time.

II. USE THE GUIDES!

If I talk about a specific resource Guide or Pathfinder: Use it! I write these things to save us all time! It will be worth-your-while to sit down and look the guide over before you start your research activities. All your questions will be answered! All of our guides cover the three most important parts of the Library:

- A. Reference Materials;
- B. Books;
- C. Articles in Periodicals.

Paper copies of these guides are under the "Three Horses Picture" in the Reference Area or online under "FIND" at [Davis Library's Homepage \[http://library.rio.edu/reference.html\]](http://library.rio.edu/reference.html)

III. DECISIONS, DECISIONS, DECISIONS!

You don't always get to choose your research topic - but if you do, here are a couple of things you may want to keep in mind:

- A. Define your topic into a manageable form in terms of the time you have and the depth of the assignment. Do you have one week or ten weeks? Is it a two page paper or a twenty page paper?
- B. Try and pick a topic that you are interested in and want to find out more about. It's silly to pick a subject in which you are already an expert.
- C. If you give me a general idea of what you want to do, I can suggest specific resources in the Reference Collection to help you decide on a topic or narrow it down to something that's manageable.

IV. THE BIG THREE...

Do your research in the Library's three major areas in this order: Reference Collection, books, articles in periodicals.

V. REFERENCE MATERIALS (Paper Books or Online Resources)

Start by defining your terms and collecting your basic background information. If you have a good initial

understanding of your subject you will be better prepared deal with the tons of information that you'll find later in the databases. I can help you find relevant reference books and/or databases to get a good start on your research. These will also contain great bibliographies: The books and articles listed to write a top-notch research paper.

[Oxford Reference Online](http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources/show_details.php?db=x_oxford_ref) [http://www.ohiolink.edu/resources/show_details.php?db=x_oxford_ref].

VI. BOOKS

- A. [RioCat](http://alpha.rio.edu/screens/opacmenu.html) [<http://alpha.rio.edu/screens/opacmenu.html>] - An automated database that lists the books and other materials owned by Davis Library including the Library's circulating collection on the Second Floor.
- B. [OhioLINK Library Catalog](http://olc1.ohiolink.edu/search) [<http://olc1.ohiolink.edu/search>] - This lists the books and other materials owned by over 80 OhioLINK Member Libraries and may be ordered online by Rio students, faculty, and staff. *To access from Davis Library's Homepage: Click on the OhioLINK icon; Click on "OhioLINK Library Catalog".*
- C. [E-Book Center](http://ebooks.ohiolink.edu) [<http://ebooks.ohiolink.edu>] - Full texts of thousands of scholarly and reference e-books. *To access from Davis Library's Homepage: Click on the OhioLINK icon; Click on "E-Book Center".*

VI. ARTICLES FROM PERIODICALS

Lastly, top off your research with very current articles that will address specific topics of your research. All the following have lots of full text.

To access from Davis Library's Homepage: Click on the OhioLINK icon; Click on "[Library Databases – By Name or Title](#)".

- A. [Academic Search Complete](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?profile=ehost&defaultdb=a9h) [<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?profile=ehost&defaultdb=a9h>] – A very general and comprehensive scholarly full text database, this indexes more than 5,300 full-text periodicals, including 4,400 peer-reviewed journals.
- B. [America's Newspapers](http://infoweb.newsbank.com/?db=NEWSBANK) [<http://infoweb.newsbank.com/?db=NEWSBANK>] – Full text newspapers plus 17 from Ohio.
- C. [Business Source Complete](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=bth) [<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=bth>].
- D. [Communication & Mass Media Complete](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=ufh) [<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=ufh>].
- E. [Computers & Applied Sciences Complete](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=iuh) [<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=iuh>] – Current trends in technology.
- F. [Education Research Complete](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=ehh) [<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=ehh>].
- G. [Electronic Journal Center \(OhioLINK\)](http://journals.ohiolink.edu/cgi-bin/sciserv.pl?collection=journals) [<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/cgi-bin/sciserv.pl?collection=journals>] - Full text of more than 7000 online research journals covering many subject areas.
- H. [Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=hch) [<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=hch>].
- I. [Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=pbh) [<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=pbh>].

- J. [Religion and Philosophy Collection](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=rh) [http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=rh].
- K. [SocINDEX](http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=sih) [http://search.ebscohost.com/login.asp?profile=web&defaultdb=sih] – Sociology.

VII. TIMING IS EVERYTHING!

Schedule your research activities carefully and try to get a good early start. Sometimes things take longer than we expect.

VIII. REALLY...JUST ASK!

We want you to feel comfortable in Davis Library because you will probably be using similar information technologies wherever you may find yourself after Rio. We encourage independent research and hope that we give you a good start with our instructional presentations, Guides and Pathfinders. But if you are having problems: Ask us for help. We can save you a lot of time!

*-Tim Snow
Reference Librarian*

ASK US at refdesk@rio.edu for help with resources and services in Davis Library by emailing both Reference Librarians simultaneously: [Tim Snow](mailto:tsnow@rio.edu), Reference Librarian, Phone: 740-245-7344, tsnow@rio.edu; [Amy Wilson](mailto:awilson@rio.edu), Reference Outreach Specialist, Phone: 740-245-7382, awilson@rio.edu. Call Toll Free in OH, WV, KY, PA: 800-282-7201.