FORMULATING YOUR SEARCH

STEP 1: IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP YOUR TOPIC

State your topic as a question. For example, if you are interested in finding out about liberation therapy and multiple sclerosis you might pose the question, "Does liberation therapy work for Ms?" Identify the main concepts or keywords in your question.

STEP 2: FIND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Look up your keywords in dictionaries (in print or online) and subject encyclopedias. Additional background information may be found in your lecture notes or textbooks.

STEP 3: USE THE CATALOG TO FIND BOOKS AND MEDIA

Use guided keyword searching to find materials by topic or subject. Print or write down the citation (author, title, etc.) and the location information (call number and library). Note the circulation status. When you pull the book from the shelf, scan the bibliography for additional sources.

STEP 4: USE DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES

Use databases to find citations to articles. On the Library page go to the Databases tab. In the drop down menu select Nursing. Here you have listed all the databases that might be useful for your topic.

STEP 5: FIND INTERNET RESOURCES (remember to evaluate any website you use)

Finding Information on the Internet: A thorough tutorial from UC Berkeley.

Evaluating webpages: A tutorial from UC Berkeley.
STEP 6: EVALUATE WHAT YOU FIND

If you have found too many or too few sources, you may need to narrow or broaden your topic. Check with a reference librarian or your instructor.

STEP 7: REMEMBER TO CITE WHAT YOU FIND

Cite your sources!

Go to the How do I Cite... by Robert Thomas, a U of R Libguide for information on citing and how to use Refworks.