

Introduction to University Research

<https://library.busitema.ac.ug/>



Develop Research Plan

Understand your assignment

- How long is it?
- When is it due?
- Does it require specific types of resources?

What to do

- Make sure you understand your assignment.
- Create a realistic plan and timeline to complete the assignment.

Helpful Resources

- Research help books
- Online research guides
- Assignment Calculator
<https://www.lib.umn.edu/services/ac> - adopted from University of Minnesota

Do Background Research

University research is about building on the ideas and research of others and adding to these ideas with your own.

What to do

- Become familiar with your topic.
- Keep track of important words and phrases related to your topic.
- Take notes.

Helpful Resources

- Encyclopedias
- Wikipedia
- “Google around”

Create Search Strategy

Is your topic manageable?

- Is it too broad?
- Is it too narrow?

Are you asking the right questions?

- Is your topic researchable?
- Does it meet the requirements of your assignment?

What to do

- Pick the “key” words that describe your topic.
- Make your topic “bigger” or “smaller”, depending on what you find.

Helpful Resources for Every Stage of the Research Process

Your Librarian — use Librarian’s office hours; check-in at different stages of your research; ask questions

The Library — visit the Reference Desk; make an appointment with a Librarian; call, email or even text the Library



Find Sources

Before you begin searching, look at your assignment and ask yourself:

- How many sources do I need?
- What types of sources do I need?
- Are there any sources I cannot use?
- Does the information need to be current? How current?

What to do

- Find out what the Library has for you.
- Know the differences between types of sources (books, newspapers, magazines) and their formats (print, online) and how to pick the right ones for your needs.
- Use the right tool to find the right source (catalog, databases, search engines).

Helpful Resources

- Subject Research Guides <https://researchguides.busitema.ac.ug/>
- Course Reserves <https://libcat.busitema.ac.ug/cgi-bin/koha/opac-course-reserves.pl>
- Library Catalog <https://libcat.busitema.ac.ug/>
- Learn about Plagiarism <https://library.busitema.ac.ug/library-news/open-access/2021>

Evaluate Sources

What are you looking for?

- Information that is useful to your research
- Information that is credible, unbiased, timely and correct

Remember the CRAP Test

- **C**urrency
- **R**eliability
- **A**uthority
- **P**urpose/Point of View

What to do

- Look at your sources and see if they are USEFUL for your research
- Look at your sources and see if they are RIGHT for your assignment
- Look at your sources and see if they are the BEST available on your topic



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Put it Together

Know when to cite

- Paraphrasing
- Summarizing
- Quoting

Know how to cite

- Use the right format: APA, MLA, Chicago Style— not sure? Ask your lecturer!
- Keep track of your sources during your research

What to do

- Pull out the details and ideas from your sources.
- Organize everything in a way that makes sense.
- Understand what plagiarism is and make sure it's clear which ideas are yours and which come from other sources.
- Pick a citation style and stick to it.

Helpful Resources

- Library's Citing Sources page <https://library.busitema.ac.ug/>
- Technology Tools <https://library.busitema.ac.ug/technologies/free-digital-tools-for-researchers>
- Remote Access <https://library.busitema.ac.ug/research-services/remote-access-to-databases>

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