Quick Guide to Library Research:

Getting Started
Remember! The earlier you start, the more time you will have to find information to complete your project

Making Your Plan
Consider:
- How detailed will your research have to be?
- How long does your paper have to be?
- What subject areas are involved?
- What types of information/resources are needed?
- Where will you find your resources?

Developing Your Search
Actions:
- Get familiar with your campus library
- Talk to Mid-State library staff
- Find out what resources you can get from your library
- Choose a topic and have it approved by your instructor
- Select your information resources

Identifying Resources
- Reference Resources
- Books
- Scholarly and Professional Journals
- Popular Magazines
- Newspapers
- Internet Resources
- Audio, Visual, and Non-Print Resources

Gathering Information
Reference Sources:
- Mid-State Library Catalog
- Other Library Catalogs

Scholarly and Popular Journals (starting points on most subjects):
- OmniFull Text Select
- EBSCOhost All Databases

Newspapers
- Badgerlink: Library and Information Resources for Wisconsin
- Access World News
Evaluating Your Resources
- Who is the author? – Check the author’s credentials
- What audience was it written for?
- Is the information current and/or biased?
- Is the level of the information appropriate for your project?
- Is there is a list of references and bibliography cited by the author?

APA Writing Format:

American Psychological Association (APA) style is a widely-accepted style of documentation for written research reports, academic term papers, theses, dissertations, and for scholarly manuscripts submitted for publication in Psychology, Sociology, Business, Economics, Nursing, Social Work, Criminology and other disciplines of the Social Sciences, and in some fields that cross disciplinary boundaries – such as Communications and Media Studies.

This guide is intended as a quick reference on citing in APA format a reference list for some of the most common types of materials. For in-text citations, consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, which is available for student use at MSTC campus libraries. The call number for this manual is BF76.7.C66 2005. Hanging indents – it means the second line is indented – are acceptable, but check with your instructor to learn more about the citation style required for your course or discipline.

Book by a single author:

Book by two authors:

Edited Book:

Book, no author or editor:
**Multivolume edited work:**


**Article or chapter in edited work:**


**Chapter in a volume in a series:**


**Journal article:**


**Magazine article:**


**Newspaper article:**


**Article in a reference book:**


**Government document (agency as author):**

World Wide Web site:


Note: The date in parentheses is the date of last update or copyright (if available)

Journal article from full-text databases:


For more information on APA style, please visit these useful electronic links:

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http://tinyurl.com/b6vmze5