**Getting help**
Librarians are available to help you with your research.

We are available for quick answers:

- **Email**: Send questions to library@brynmawr.edu or click “Ask a Librarian” on the library’s web page (http://www.brynmawr.edu/library). We answer emails within 24 hours, and usually faster!

- **Phone**: Call the Reference Desk at 610-526-5279

or for more in-depth, personalized research consultations:

- **In-person**: Walk-in for impromptu help with Kate in the Canaday Research Help Office

- **Online**: Make an appointment with Kate via the widget on the library homepage

**ANALYZE, REVISE, & REPEAT**

Research is an iterative process. When you do a literature search:

1. **Analyze** your results to see how relevant they are to your topic. Are you getting too many results or too few?

2. **Revise** your strategy. In the process of searching, you will likely find additional terminology or subject headings you did not uncover in your initial background research.

3. **Repeat** the search and start the entire process again.
Approaching the Literature Search
ANTH 331 – Fall 2018

DESCRIBE YOUR RESEARCH TOPIC

Write down your research topic in the form of a question to help you visualize what you are looking for.

IDENTIFY MAIN CONCEPTS AND GENERATE KEYWORDS

Circle the main concepts in your topic.

Example: How does the use of pet therapy in nursing homes benefit residents with Alzheimer’s disease?

Separate your main concepts into table columns. Do some brainstorming and background research to identify synonyms and related concepts and add them to the table below.

Some suggested places to search for anthropology topics and terminology:

- Oxford Bibliographies Online – Anthropology and others (https://tripod.brynmawr.edu/find/Record/.b4013623)
- Annual Reviews – Anthropology and others (https://tripod.brynmawr.edu/find/Record/.b3229145)
- Very Short Introductions – Anthropology and others (https://tripod.brynmawr.edu/find/Record/.b4148922)
- Google Scholar, Wikipedia
- Tripod for books and article – note the subject headings (http://tripod.brynmawr.edu)
- Note the keywords listed immediately after the abstract in most journal articles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept #1</th>
<th>Concept #2</th>
<th>Concept #3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ex: pet therapy</td>
<td>Ex: nursing homes</td>
<td>Ex: Alzheimer’s disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>animal-assisted therapy</td>
<td>hospitals</td>
<td>dementia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you fill out the table, make note of any broader or narrower concepts.

Example: Alzheimer’s → dementia (broader); early onset Alzheimer’s disease (narrower)
FORMULATE A SEARCH STRATEGY

Select what you feel are the best keywords or phrases from your table write them out into a search phrase.

- Use **AND** to connect your main concepts
- Use **OR** between related concepts
- Place parentheses around your **OR** phrases and quotes around multi-term phrases
- Use quotations marks when searching for exact phrases.
- Use an * at the end of a word so the search engine will look for alternate endings
  - Example: hospital* = hospitals, hospitalized, etc. (**not available in Google Scholar**)

**Example:** (“pet therapy” OR “animal-assisted therapy”) AND (hospital* OR “nursing home”) AND (Alzheimer’s OR dementia)

Use this space to write out your search strategy. **Research is an iterative process**, so your first strategy will not be perfect. Later on, you will **analyze** your results, **revise** your strategy, and **repeat** the search.
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