Welcome to the AURARIA LIBRARY

Introduction to Research

This activity will introduce you to basic strategies for research. If you have questions or need support at any time, library staff are happy to help at the Ask Us Desk or online via chat.

First, find the Auraria Library's website and locate the **Start My Research** box. Through Start My Research you have access to most of the library's resources. This is a good place to start your research.

1. Key words are required when using academic or library databases. If you ask a question or write a sentence in the search bar you will get either confused results or no results at all. Practice choosing keywords for this research question: **What is the relationship between library funding and the quality of democratic engagement in communities?**

   What are 3 keywords you might use to search in Start My Research?

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   Library search tools work by matching the words searched with words in the text. Sometimes you need to try multiple terms to get the most relevant results. For the 3 keywords above give a synonym for each.

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2. In Start My Research, try three different combinations of keywords using the original keywords and their synonyms. Look through the results for each search. How did the results differ? Did one search yield the most relevant results?

3. Keywords can also be important to use when researching using Google or other search engines. Compare these two searches in Google: 'libraries and democracy' and 'how do libraries support democracy?' Describe two ways the results are different.

   Which search do you like more? Give one reason.

4. AI is a useful tool in research, but how and which one? Using the search 'libraries and democracy' search in Chat GPT and Perplexity.ai. Compare the results and give two differences you notice (Hint: The free version of Chat GPT doesn't have direct access to the internet).

Which one did you like more? Why?

How could you use this to help plan your research? Give two examples.