

Catalog & Databases Worksheet

Objective: Use library resources to find books & articles about a topic.

1. Pick a topic.

Write down keywords that represent your topic.
Include synonyms, as well as broader, narrower, and related terms.

Need topic ideas? Try the CQ Researcher database, or browse the Topic Guide in the ProQuest database.

2. Find Books Using UCAT, the UTSA Library Catalog

- A. Do an expert keyword search to find a book about your topic.

What keywords did you use? _____

Write down the **title**, **location**, and **call number** of a book from your search results.

Title: _____

Location: _____ Call Number: _____

- B. Look at the subject headings that describe the book.

Write down one of the subject headings. _____

Would you have thought of this subject heading by yourself? _____

Click on the subject heading to find more books relevant to this topic.

Did you find more books? _____

3. Find Articles Using a Library Database
(You can use ProQuest or Academic Search Premier)

Team up with a partner or work on your own.

Use keywords to find articles on your topic.
Use **Search Strategies** to narrow your results.

How many results do you get? _____

Try **limiting** the search. Some limiting suggestions include date, scholarly journals only, newspapers only, article length, full-text.
How many results do you get? _____

Look through the results and pick an article that looks interesting.
Do you think the article is from a magazine, newspaper, or journal? Why?

Write down the **citation** information.

Author: _____

Title of Article: _____

Magazine, Newspaper or Journal Title: _____

Vol. / Issue / Publication Date: _____ Page #s: _____

Is there an **abstract** for the article? _____

Is the article available in **full-text**? _____

Are there **subject headings** or **descriptors** for this article? _____

Are they useful? _____

Did this search work? If not, how could you change it to make it more effective?
