



# Palomar College Library

## Library Research & Information Literacy Assignment

**The following activities are designed to help you:**

- Find books, DVDs and more using the Library Catalog.
- Find journal, magazine, and newspaper articles using the Library Databases.
- Adjust your search strategies to find more useful and relevant information.
- Find credible websites on your topic using the Library website.
- Evaluate the quality and usefulness of the information you find.
- Learn where to get help finding information.

**Ready, set, go!** Begin this assignment by visiting the Palomar College Library website.

<http://www.palomar.edu/library>

**Note to Course Instructors:** If you plan to send a large group of students to the library to complete this assignment, please notify the library in advance so that we will have enough computers and staff available to assist students. You may schedule a library instruction session or reserve the library classroom by completing a request form at <http://www.palomar.edu/library/infocomp/requestform.htm>  
Thank you!

### FIND BOOKS, DVDS AND MORE

In this section, you will learn how to use the **Library catalog** to find books, ebooks, DVDs, and other materials at the Palomar College Library – at the San Marcos Campus Library and the Escondido Center Library.

1. From the Palomar College Library website, click on the **catalog** link and search for books on one of the following topics, or on a topic of your choice. To get started, type in your search terms and then click on the ‘everything’ button. You may need to revise your search terms a few times before you find items on your topic.
  - Mexican American art
  - Native American dance
  - Your topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Record your search strategies and results below:

What search terms (keywords) did you use first? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of results: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you find anything useful? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you modify your original search terms to get better results? \_\_\_\_\_

What search terms did you find most useful? \_\_\_\_\_

- 1a. Review your catalog search results and select the most relevant item on your topic. Click on the “Details” button for this item and record the following information:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Call #: \_\_\_\_\_

Location (for example, San Marcos campus, Escondido Center, online, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Is this item a book, ebook, DVD, video, or something else? \_\_\_\_\_

## FIND ARTICLES

In this section, you will learn how to use the Library's **databases** to find **articles** published in newspapers, magazines and journals. You will NOT find articles in the library catalog.

2. From the Palomar College Library website, click on the articles link. Here you will see a list of databases that you can use to find articles. The tabs across the top of the page organize the databases by subject area. We also have databases specifically for finding ebooks, images, and videos.

From the library databases page click on the database, **Academic Search Premier**.

Search for articles on one of the following topics or a topic of your choice. You may need to revise your search strategy a few times before you find items on your topic.

- Stress and college students
- Online learning and college
- Your topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Record your search strategies and results below:

What search terms (keywords) did you use first? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of results: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you find anything useful? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you modify your original search terms to get better results? \_\_\_\_\_

What search terms did you find most useful? \_\_\_\_\_

- 2a. Review your search results and select the most relevant article on your topic. Then, click on the title of the article and record the following information. You would need this information if you were going to include the article in a works cited or bibliography page.

Article title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

Periodical name (source): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Page number(s): \_\_\_\_\_

What type of article is this? (circle one)

Magazine article

Newspaper article

Journal article

3. Return to the library's article/databases page and select one of the databases listed under the **News** tab. You will now search for newspaper articles on a topic.

Which database did you choose? \_\_\_\_\_

Search for articles on the same topic that you used for the last database, Academic Search Premier, and record your search strategies and results below:

What search terms (keywords) did you use first? \_\_\_\_\_

Number of results: \_\_\_\_\_ Did you find anything useful? \_\_\_\_\_

Did you modify your original search terms to get better results? \_\_\_\_\_

What search terms did you find most useful? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Which database did you find most useful, Academic Search Premier or the newspaper database, and why?

### FIND CREDIBLE WEBSITES

In this section, you will learn how to use the Library's website to find credible websites on a topic. The Library's **Research by Subject** page - <http://www.palomar.edu/library/subjects.htm> - provides access to useful and reliable websites on a variety of topics.

5. From the Palomar College Library website, click on the '**Research by Subject**' link. The library has put together guides for finding useful information on many topics and subject areas. Click on the link to American Indian Studies or on another topic that interests you.
- 5a. Review the sources listed on the American Indian Studies subject guide or on another guide of your choice. List the title and URL of one website that you found particularly interesting.

Website title: \_\_\_\_\_

URL (website address): \_\_\_\_\_

### EVALUATE WHAT YOU FIND

Once you've found a website, book or article on your topic, how do you know if the information is accurate, credible and useful? In this section, you will practice evaluating the quality and usefulness of the information you find.

6. Begin by answering the following questions about the website you selected in the previous section:

Who is the author of the website? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the author of the website an expert on the topic? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the website affiliated with an organization? \_\_\_\_\_

Is the purpose of the website to sell, persuade or inform? \_\_\_\_\_

Where or how did the author get the information? \_\_\_\_\_

Does the author provide a bibliography or links to other useful sources? \_\_\_\_\_

When was the website created? \_\_\_\_\_

After carefully considering the questions above, would you use the website to support a college level research paper? \_\_\_\_\_

## GET HELP FROM A LIBRARIAN

*Did you know that there are librarians available to help you find information? And it's free!!!*  
The librarians at the Palomar College Library are ready and eager to help you with any of your research needs. **All you need to do is ask.** There is a librarian available whenever the library is open. You can also call us, email us, or get instant help online from the Library's website.

7. Use the library website to find the following information:
  - A. List the days and hours the main library on the San Marcos campus is open.
  - B. List the days and hours the Escondido Center Library is open.
  - C. List the phone number and email address you would use to ask a librarian a question.
  - D. If you need help from a librarian at midnight, what can you do?

## PLAN YOUR RESEARCH STRATEGY

8. Research is a process that often involves trial and error. Before you begin looking for information, it's best to have a plan. **List at least three ways** that you would go about finding reliable information about African American inventors:
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

## 3 ♦ 2 ♦ 1 ASSESSMENT

9. After completing these activities, answer the following 3 questions:

List 3 things you learned about research.

List 2 things that you still do not understand about research.

List 1 way you will do research differently.