Library and Writing Center Support for All Your Research Needs

When working on a research paper, literature review, master's thesis, or any other academic project requiring sources, students should seek assistance on campus throughout the research process. While multiple services are available, the University Library and Writing Center can provide much of the help needed. Below you will find a series of bulleted steps charting the different phases of the research process and the campus resources most suited to assist with each.

Define and narrow your topic (Library and Writing Center)

- Identify a topic
- Read broadly on it
- Note differing conclusions and findings
- Identify a question within the topic that experts draw different conclusions on

Find your sources and evaluate their quality and relevance (Library)

- Use the library databases to search for articles in journals and other periodicals that address your question
- Use the library catalog to search for works in print
- Use bibliographies and works cited and reference lists of the sources you have found to identify other research leads

Take notes on your sources' bibliographic information and content (Library and Writing Center)

- Evaluate each source's relevance to your question and its overall quality
- Record bibliographic information on all promising sources
- Download digital materials
- Check out sources that are only in print

Record and organize the material (Writing Center)

- Record each source and briefly summarize its content and relevance to your own research in writing
- Organize these entries into categories that reflect subquestions related to the main research question you are using to arrive at a conclusion
- Note sources that have differing conclusions and findings

The Writing Center and the Library's Research Help office are both located in Building 15, the first in Rm. 2919 and the second in Suite 2334.

To request help from a research & instruction librarian, students should go to the Contact a Subject Librarian page: Library's Research Guides page: https://www.cpp.edu/library/reference-instruction/contact-a-subject-librarian.shtml. From there, they can select the relevant subject and find the librarian assigned to it. For more information, check out the helpful links: https://www.cpp.edu/library/reference-instruction/research-help.shtml.

For tutoring, students can visit the Writing Center's webpage: https://www.cpp.edu/lrc/our-services/writing-tutoring.shtml. From there, they can make an appointment for either in-person or online tutoring.