

# Stepping Up Your Scholarly Research Skills: Searching Databases

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Graduate Online Success Series  
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Drexel University Libraries*



Drexel University  
Libraries

# Welcome

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# Agenda

- ✓ Research process and preparing to search
- ✓ Access and use Library's Dragon Search
- ✓ Conduct keyword and subject searches in library databases
- ✓ Apply database search limiters
- ✓ Use Boolean operators, truncation and phrase searching in databases
- ✓ Cited Reference Searching in Web of Science





**How confident do you feel about conducting research and searching for scholarly sources using library resources and databases?**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.

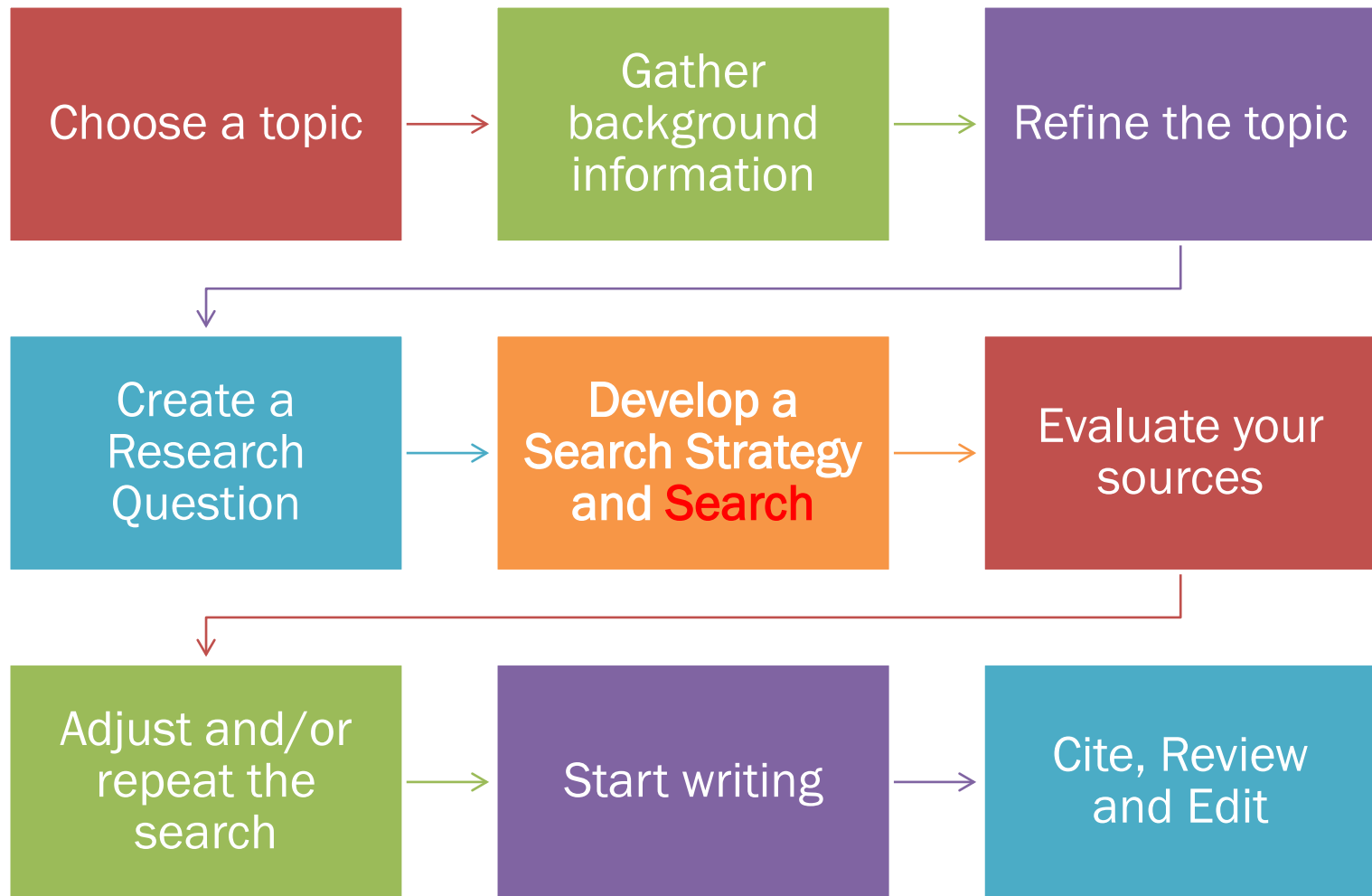
# Research process



- A *research strategy* will help
  - focus the topic
  - organize the search
  - manage time efficiently
  - progress from general to specific resources
  - understand if the topic has been examined thoroughly enough
  - ID knowledge gaps on the topic
- The process takes *time* and *effort*.
  - You should not expect to complete all steps in a single sitting
- By thoughtfully approaching your topic you will be able to research the topic in an organized fashion and compose a thorough scholarly paper.

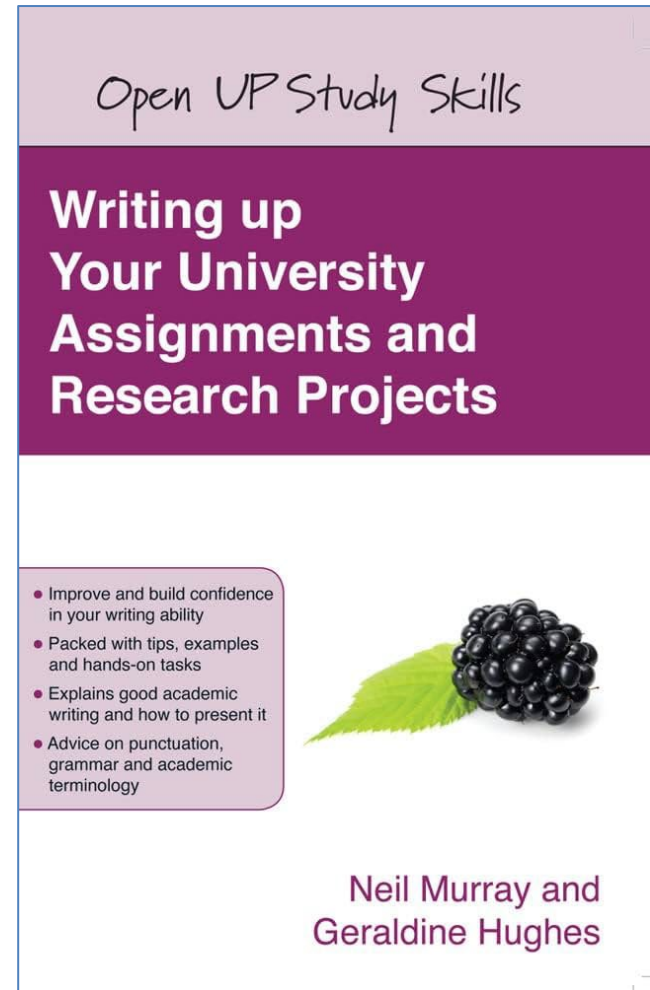


# Research process



# Suggested reading

- [Writing up Your University Assignments and Research Projects](#) by Neil Murray & Geraldine Hughes
- “Academic writing can be a daunting prospect for new undergraduates and postgraduates alike. This accessible book provides students with all they need to know to produce excellent written work.”



# Choosing a topic and gathering background information

- Aim for a happy medium
  - Topic not too broad but also not too narrow in scope.
  - Who, what, where, when, and why.
- Gather background info
  - Consult news articles, books, encyclopedia and internet searching to gather information to start.
  - **Dragon Search** can be helpful.

## Using Google

- Locate credible professional associations, organizations and government pages.
  - limit results to sites with specific domains, such as .org, .edu, .mil, or .gov.
- Type in your search terms + site:.edu.





# Where to search?

- **Dragon Search (Library Homepage)**
  - Very broad, searches across library catalog
- **Databases A to Z**
  - Listing of all library databases
- **Subject and course guides with database links**
  - Will contain links to suggested databases based on subject and discipline



# Constructing a Search Strategy

- Define your search question/topic
- Identify the separate concepts in your question
- For each concept, think of appropriate search terms, including synonyms and related terms
- Map out how to connect your search terms



## Define your question:

What is the effect of video games on empathy  
in teenagers?



**Identify the separate concepts in your question:**

What is the effect of **video games** on **empathy**  
in **teenagers**?



Think of appropriate search terms, including synonyms and related terms:

Video Games	Empathy	Teenagers



# Think of appropriate search terms, including synonyms and related terms:

Video Games	Empathy	Teenagers
Gaming	sympathy	Teens
Virtual reality	compassion	Adolescents (or adolescence)
Computer games		Youths
		[database age filters]

If the database(s) you're using has a thesaurus or listing of subject terms (controlled vocabulary), look there for equivalent or related terms.



# Combining Search Terms: Boolean Operators

- OR
  - broadens a search by telling the database that *any* of the words it connects are acceptable.
  
- AND
  - narrows a search by telling the database that **ALL keywords used must be found** in an article in order for it to appear in your results list.



# Combine synonyms or related terms with OR:

Teenagers

OR

Adolescen\*

OR

Youth

OR

Youths





# Combine separate concepts with AND:

Video Games

OR

Gaming

OR

Computer  
Games

OR

Virtual  
Reality

AND

Empathy

OR

Sympathy

OR

Compassion

AND

Teenagers

OR

Adolescen\*

OR

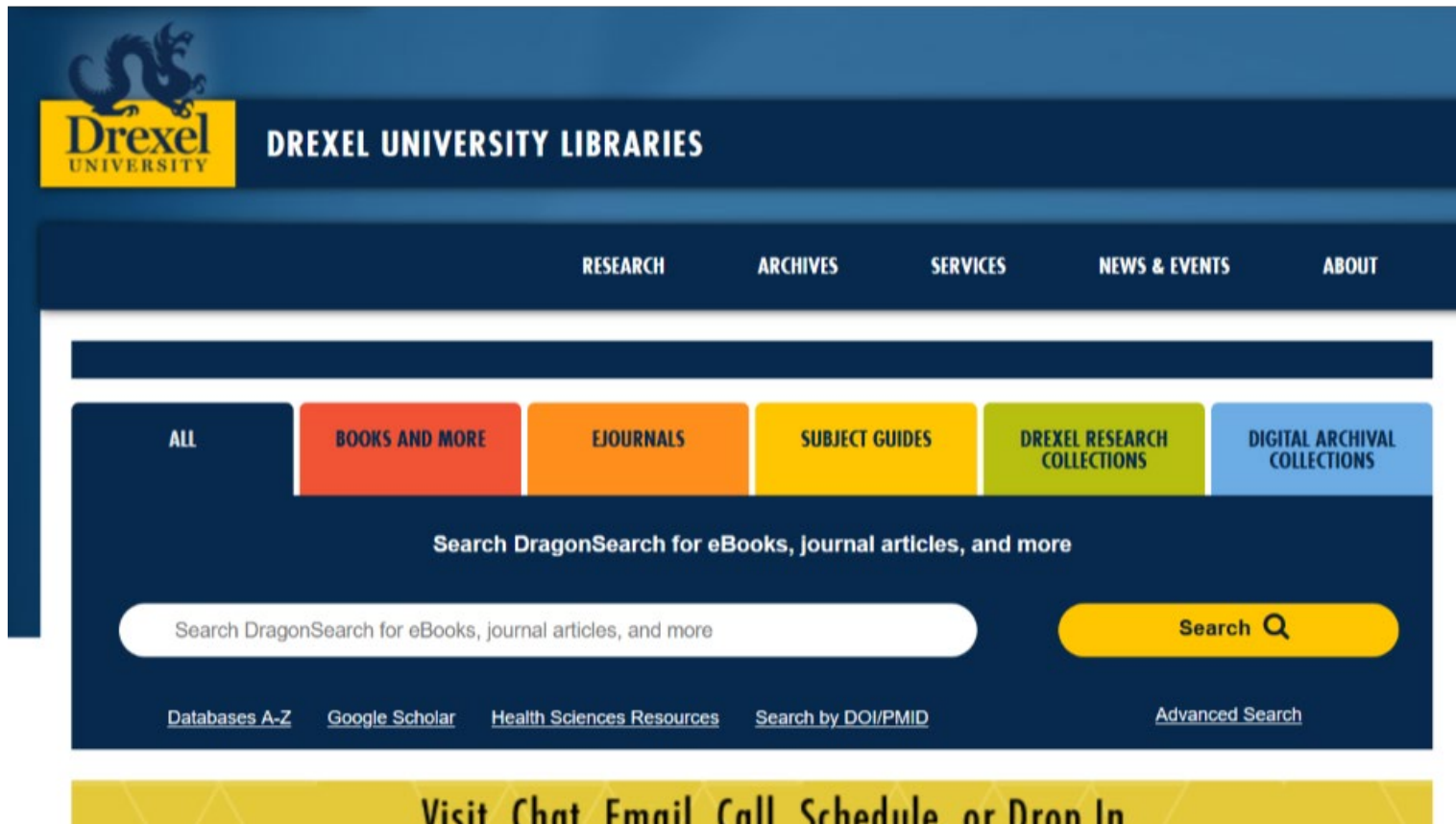
Youth

OR

Youths



# Dragon Search Demo



The screenshot displays the Drexel University Libraries website. At the top left is the Drexel University logo, featuring a dragon and the text "Drexel UNIVERSITY". To its right, the text "DREXEL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES" is displayed. Below this is a navigation menu with the following items: RESEARCH, ARCHIVES, SERVICES, NEWS & EVENTS, and ABOUT. The main content area features a search bar with the text "Search DragonSearch for eBooks, journal articles, and more". Above the search bar are six colored tabs: ALL (dark blue), BOOKS AND MORE (red), EJOURNALS (orange), SUBJECT GUIDES (yellow), DREXEL RESEARCH COLLECTIONS (green), and DIGITAL ARCHIVAL COLLECTIONS (light blue). Below the search bar is a yellow button labeled "Search Q". At the bottom of the search area, there are links for "Databases A-Z", "Google Scholar", "Health Sciences Resources", "Search by DOI/PMID", and "Advanced Search". A yellow banner at the very bottom contains the text "Visit Chat Email Call Schedule or Drop In".



# ProQuest One Academic Demo

The screenshot shows the ProQuest One Academic website interface. At the top, the browser address bar displays the URL <https://www.proquest.com/pq1academic?accountid=10559>. Below the browser, a navigation bar includes links for Home page, Drexel Connect, Health Sciences, Ex Libris - Alma, LibApps, RefStats 2.0, CWAL chat data form, SharePoint, and DULHub. The ProQuest logo and "Access provided by DREXEL UNIVERSITY" are prominently displayed. The main content area features a large background image with newspaper headlines such as "MEN WALK ON MOON" and "ASTRONAUTS LAND ON PLAIN". Navigation options include Basic Search, Advanced Search, Publications, Browse, and Change databases. A search bar is present with a dropdown menu for source types: All, Scholarly Journals, Books, Videos & Audio, Dissertations & Theses, and All source types. Below the search bar, there are filters for Full text and Peer reviewed, along with links for Recent searches and Search tips. A help icon with a question mark and the number 4 is visible in the bottom right corner.



# Web of Science Demo

Web of Science™ Search Sign In Register

>| MENU

DOCUMENTS RESEARCHERS

Search in: Web of Science Core Collection ▾ Editions: All ▾

DOCUMENTS CITED REFERENCES

All Fields ▾ Example: liver disease india singh

+ Add row + Add date range Advanced search

× Clear Search





**When beginning your Library research, it is always a good idea to:**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



**Which of the following would move you forward in time to locate recent articles that reference your original article?**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.



**Leadership AND motivation  
would return search results  
with:**

① Start presenting to display the poll results on this slide.