

# 6 Steps to Effective Research



**1. Choose a topic.**  
Can you relate this assignment to something that truly interests you?



Ask: Should you narrow your topic?



**2. Gather background information.**  
Search Reference books, the Library's catalog, & WorldCat.



Save citations



**3. Generate a list of keywords and phrases.**  
Look for keywords in books, on webpages, by talking with others, and by using a synonym finder such as Visual Thesaurus.



**4. Search for information on your sub-topics.**  
Find reliable Web sources.



Find books & films



Find Articles



Save citations

**5. Refine your search as necessary.**  
Experiment with different keywords and filters.



**6. Create a bibliography.**  
Format citations using KnightCite and a Library Getting Started citation guide.