

II. Gathering Information

Before you start doing in-depth research on your topic, you will need to gather some background information in order to be able to focus on a theme and outline effectively. While using your background information, be sure to take notes concerning relevant issues within your topic; differing issues and definitions of key concepts and ideas. Appropriate sources for locating background information would include encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs, yearbooks, handbooks, and bibliographies. In order to find information concerning **Nursing Care** and **Cancer Patients**, you will need to look for background material in **nursing** and **cancer**. You may locate these resources by:

1. Searching the Library's online catalog under for general encyclopedias underneath the subject heading ***Encyclopedias*** and ***Dictionaries***. From the entries retrieved, choose the ones which would be relevant to your topic.
2. Take notes of the appropriate classification numbers for specific resources in your subject area and locate them in the appropriate reference section.
3. You may refine your search by using the keyword search button and combining words in general such as cancer and nursing with words such as encyclopedia, dictionary, etc.

Resources providing background information include:

A. Encyclopedias

General:

Britannica Online

<http://www.tnstate.edu/library/database/htm#B>

Encyclopedia Americana

Ref. AE 5 .E333 1996

Subject:

Gale Encyclopedia of Nursing & Allied Health

Ref. RT21 .G353 2002

Historical Encyclopedia of Nursing

Ref. RT31 .S66 1999

Women in Medicine: An Encyclopedia

Ref. R692 .W545 2002

B. Dictionaries

General:

Random House Webster's Dictionary

Ref. PE 1628 .R294 2001

Subject:

Dorland's Illustrated Medical Dictionary

Ref. R121 .D73 2000

Melloni's Illustrated Dictionary of Medical Abbreviations

Ref. R121 .M539 1998

Oxford Illustrated Companion to Medicine

Ref. R121 .O884 2001

PDR Medical Dictionary

Ref. R121 .P21 1995

C. Handbooks and Bibliographies

Internet Resource Guide for Nurses and Health Professionals

Ref. RT50.5 .M37 2001

Professional Guide to Diseases

Ref. RT65 .P69 2001

Research Survival Guide

Ref. RT81.5 .M37 2001

Nurse Practitioner's Drug Handbook

Ref. RM125 .N87 2002

D. Almanacs and Yearbooks

Conn's Current Therapy

Ref. RM101 .C87 2003

Physician's Desk Reference

Ref. RS75 .P5 2003

E. Dissertations, Theses, and Senior Projects

You may also want to consult the various dissertation, theses, and senior projects available at your library through our online catalog and our database *Current Research* @. One example of a biology thesis available through our online catalog is as follows:

Bradley, Chastity. *The Effects of Hypericum, Callycinum, and Hypericum Topas on Breast Cancer Cell Line BT549*.
QH307 .B72 no. 3139, 2002.

You will also want to consult our *Dissertations Abstracts* database, which features abstracts of dissertations worldwide. To obtain copies of, or the original dissertations you are interested in, you will need to fill out an [interlibrary loan request](#) or contact Mrs. Barbara Van Hooser who is in charge of Interlibrary Loans for the Brown-Daniel Library. She may be contacted via telephone at **963-5206**, or by electronic mail address: bvanhooser@tnstate.edu.

F. Current Information

If you need the latest information on a new medical discovery or the latest hot topic, you would need to consult sources such as newspaper and magazine articles or scholarly journal articles, depending on the nature of your research. Some of the best sources to consult concerning current events and/or the latest scholarly research in your particular field would be as follows:

- *Lexis-Nexis* (Law and News Database)
- *CINAHL* (Nursing and Allied Health)