Getting Started with Your Research

Welcome
Beginning a research project can be exciting. The UA Library system will provide you with access to monographs, journal articles, newspapers, manuscripts, film, diaries, oral histories, e-books -- almost any type of resource one can think of. Your job will be to navigate through the breadth and depth of information available to you and to identify materials that help you explore and examine a topic. The exercise below will walk you through the steps you can take when beginning your research.

Background Information
University of Arizona librarians have created a series of Subject Guides to help researchers begin their work. These Subject Guides can be accessed from the UA Library homepage by selecting Search and Find, and then selecting Subject Guides or you can use the link: Subject Guides

Steps:

1. Take a look at the variety of guides under History.

2. Choose one of the guides and identify it below.

3. What categories of information are presented through the guide? (They are the tabs at the top of the page).

4. Click on “Background Information”
Write a brief summary of the types of resources you find under background information and what purpose they might serve in the research process.

5. Identify one general and one specialized background source from the guide you are viewing. Using each source look up a topic you are considering or one that interests you. How would you compare the two entries?

6. Which one is better for your purpose and why?

7. Return to the list of Subject Guides. Browse the list of guides. Which other guides might be useful in exploring your topic and why?

8. Which Subject Guide were you most surprised to find on the list. (Hint: There is no right or wrong answer!)

Please remember that these Subject Guides go way beyond helping you with
background information. You will want to return to them for assistance with database selection, statistical sources, web resources, etc.