

## **Research Strategy Guide**

<http://infodome.sdsu.edu/research/guides/strategy.shtml>

An effective research strategy consists of the following steps:

1. **Analyze your research problem.** What do you need to know about the topic of your research? What do you already know about this topic? What do you need to learn about the topic?
2. **Determine your information requirements.** What types of information (brief versus thorough, scholarly versus popular, factual versus descriptive, historical versus current, primary versus secondary) do you need to find?
3. **Identify your information source needs.** What types of [Information Packages \(Sources of Information\)](#) (books, periodical articles, Web documents) do you need to search ? What Library resources will help you fulfill your information needs? Are these resources accessible electronically or in print or both? Ask a librarian for [Research Assistance](#).
4. **Conduct your information search(es).** Translate your research topic into subject phrases or key words. Gather relevant information using appropriate Library resources.
5. **Critically interpret, evaluate, and synthesize your information search results.** See [Evaluating Sources of Information](#). Conduct additional information search(es) if necessary.