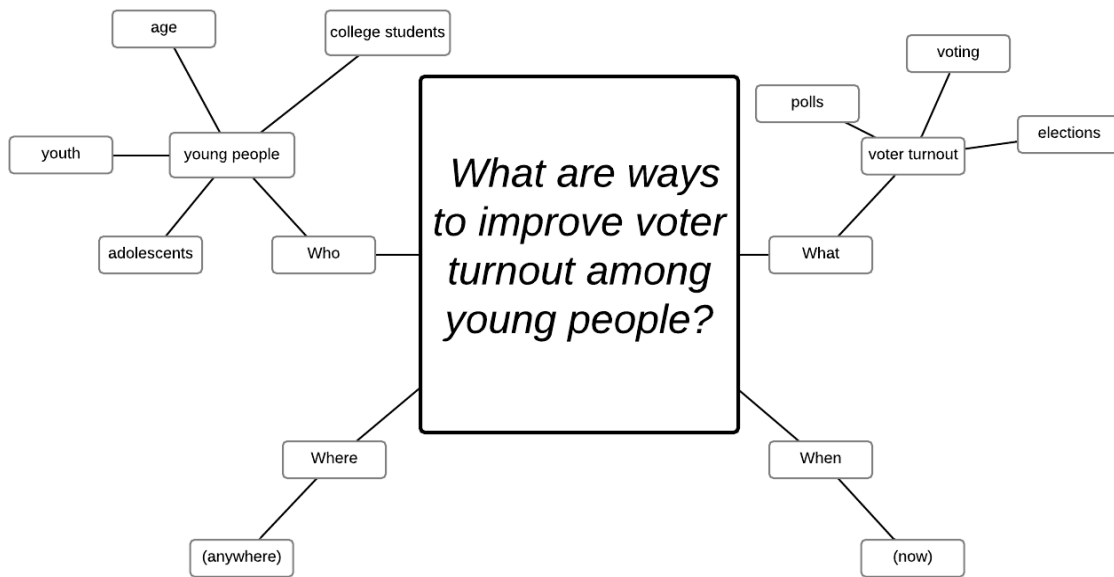


Brainstorm (key concepts, facets/nuances, related questions, sub-questions, etc.)



<https://www.lucidchart.com/invitations/accept/3c217ac0-bf3a-414b-8359-6192534cf7cc>

(log into Lucidchart: <https://www.lucidchart.com/saml/sso/ucsd.edu>)

	Subtopic (e.g. trade)	RelatedTerm (e.g. imports)	RelatedTerm (e.g. tariffs)	RelatedTerm (e.g. taxes)
Who				
What				
When				
Where				

2. Choose tools that might be useful for this project. You want a variety of:

- **Background sources**
- **Exhibits or Evidence sources**
- **Argument sources**
- **Method or Theory sources**

Check the box next to tools you want to come back and try.

Different tools do different things so you'll use several of them. Try different combinations of your keywords and revise your search as you learn more about your topic.

Background Information


Background information can help you understand and focus your topic. We all search the web to get basic background information. (It's ok.) But also try reference resources:

- Use the **International Relations & Comparative Politics** tab to find background information on individual countries and organizations. Use the **Books, Media, More** tab to find Reference Works like encyclopedias.

Scholarly Sources (Exhibits/Evidence, Argument, Method/Theory Sources)

- Books** are great places to find in-depth coverage of a topic. **Note:** A book usually takes at least a year to write and publish, so [books may not include information about recent events](#).
 - Use the library's online catalog, **Roger**, to find *books, ebooks, government documents, maps, films, etc.* Use **Circuit** to request books from San Diego-area libraries and **Melvyl** to request from UC and libraries around the world.
 - Tip:** Use more general keywords
 - Bonus tip:** Use **Google Books** or **HathiTrust** to search the text inside books, then use Roger to find the book at UCSD
- Scholarly articles** are written by academic experts and generally cover more specific topics.

Note: An article [takes a minimum of a few months to write and publish](#), so scholarly articles may not include information about very recent events, though they may be more current than books.

 - Scholarly articles may include original research on your topic or a similar one.
 - Note:** Even articles about different countries/situations/cases might include methodologies and theories that can be applied to your own research project.
 - Tip:** The bibliography of a relevant article is basically a list of key data sources, documents, and earlier articles on the topic that someone else has already compiled for you.
 - Tip:** many databases indicate how many times an article was cited. While this doesn't always mean the article is high quality (it could be often cited as an example of poor research), it often means the article includes core theory and is worth reading.
 - Use subject specific databases like **Worldwide Political Science Abstracts**, **EconLit**, **Sociological Abstracts**, **GenderWatch** or **Historical Abstracts** to find citations to scholarly articles, then use the  button to link to the full text

- Tip: Try searching across many databases on the □ **ProQuest** platform or □ **EBSCOhost** platform all at once.
- **Bonus Tip:** Also try interdisciplinary databases like □ **Google Scholar**, □ **Melvyl**, □ **Academic Search Complete**, □ **JSTOR**, and □ **Web of Science** to find articles across the disciplines.
- **Tip:** Remember, in databases with “Abstracts” in the title, you’re only searching title, subject headings, and that abstract paragraph. You may have to use more general terms

Non-scholarly/Primary Sources (Exhibits/Evidence and Argument Sources)

- **Policy info, documents, or reports from governmental or non-governmental organizations** working on these issues are also not necessarily "scholarly" in the true sense of the word, but are very good sources of up-to-date, factual information and are usually written by experts.
Note: Pay attention to any agenda or bias the issuing organization may have, as it may influence the research findings.
 - Use the □ **Google custom search engines** listed on the **left-hand side** of the "**Reports, Documents, & Policy**" tab to search the websites--including online publications--of international orgs
 - Also use databases like □ **PAIS**, □ **CIAO**, and □ **ISN** to find policy documents and reports and some scholarly articles on policy issues.
 - Government and non-governmental documents and publications that the Library has acquired for our collections can be found with □ **Roger**.
- **News sources (articles, videos, transcripts)** provide [up-to-date coverage of events as they unfold](#). They can be very useful for finding factual details about specific incidents or events.
 - Use databases like □ **Access World News**, □ **Nexis Uni Academic**, or □ **Factiva** to search for news from around the world.
- **Legal primary sources:** □ **Legislation** is law passed by a legislative body, □ **Regulations** are rules passed by an administrative body (like a government agency), and □ **court opinions** are clarification of the law by judges
- □ **Statistics** are aggregate data that with labels (for example, counts or percentages) that make it understandable to humans.

Database Descriptions

Articles tab

<https://ucsd.libguides.com/politicalscience/articles>


Reports, Documents & Policy Tab

<https://ucsd.libguides.com/politicalscience/reports>

4. Refine your search with limits.

- ★ Most databases have some sort of **limits** you can apply: date ranges, publication types (e.g., [scholarly articles](#), dissertations, book chapters, etc.), languages....
- ★ When you find good hits, look at the **subject headings**. These are controlled vocabulary assigned to describe the topic in the database. Skim the **abstracts** for additional keywords. Try running new searches using those terms.
- ★ Find more citations by looking at the **bibliography/cited references** of sources you find. Sometimes these citations are included in the database. (Also read the **literature review** in the article itself.)
- ★ Find more citations by looking at sources that cite the sources you find. Look for a **times cited** link in the database. (If your database doesn't have this, Google Scholar does.) *This is an especially good way to find core articles (and theory!) on your topic.*

5. Get the actual item.

- It may be full text in the database or it may be available through  **UC-eLinks**. It may only be available in print (check **Roger**.) If we do not have it, you can usually request it through **Interlibrary Loan (ILL)**.

6. Get the citation information. You need this for your [bibliography/references section](#).

- Email records and/or articles to yourself as a backup.
- Some databases can export the citation in a specific format (e.g. APA, Chicago, MLA)
- Use **Zotero**, **EndNote** or **Mendeley** (all free to everyone) to manage, store, and format your citations.
- Note:** Most [plagiarism](#) that happens at UC San Diego is accidental.
 - Always cite your source unless it is “common knowledge”—factual information like names or dates.*
 - Paraphrasing is more than just changing a few words around. You want to summarize and synthesize the ideas completely in your own words.*
- Check out our **How to Cite guide** for more tips: <http://ucsd.libguides.com/howtocite>

7. Evaluate the items you find.

- ✓ Is what you're finding relevant? If not, try thinking of another way to approach your topic--new key words, taking broader (or sometimes narrower) view, tackling it from a related disciplinary perspective (e.g., try a Sociology or Women's Studies database, etc.), etc.
- ✓ Is it quality information? Give it the **CRAAP test**
 - **Currency** - The timeliness of the information:
 - When was the information published or posted?
 - Does the time period that the information was published matter in relation to your topic?
 - When was the information last revised? (online often found in the footer area)
 - If reviewing a web source, are the links current or are they broken?
 - **Relevance** or Coverage - The importance of the information in relation to your topic:
 - What is the depth of coverage? Is the information provided central to your topic or does the source just touch on your topic?
 - Is the information unique?
 - Who is the intended audience? Basically, is the information at the appropriate level for your research or does it target a different type of audience?
 - Is better information available in another source?
 - **Authority** - Consider the source:
 - Can you tell who wrote it? If the author is not identified who is the sponsor, publisher, or organization behind the information?
 - Are the author's credentials or organizational affiliations listed?
 - Is contact information available?
 - Is the source reputable?
 - **Accuracy** - The reliability, truthfulness, and correctness of the informational content:
 - Where does the information presented come from? Are the sources listed?
 - Are the sources reputable?
 - Can you verify the information in other sources or from your own knowledge? Corroborate!
 - Does the language or tone seem free of bias or ideologically based arguments?
 - **Purpose** or Objectivity - The reason the information exists:
 - What is the purpose of the information? Inform? Teach? Sway opinion? Sell? Entertain?
 - Can you determine possible bias? If you can, are they clearly stated or do they become apparent through a close reading?
 - Does the point of view appear objective?
 - Does the site provide information or does it attempt to debunk other information? (Weighing positive evidence versus negative evidence)

(The CRAAP test was developed by Sarah Blakeslee and the team at CSU Chico Meriam Library.)

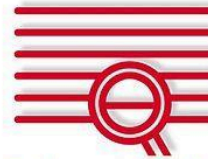
8. Repeat until you have enough to write your paper!

HOW TO SPOT FAKE NEWS



CONSIDER THE SOURCE

Click away from the story to investigate the site, its mission and its contact info.



READ BEYOND

Headlines can be outrageous in an effort to get clicks. What's the whole story?



CHECK THE AUTHOR

Do a quick search on the author. Are they credible? Are they real?



SUPPORTING SOURCES?

Click on those links. Determine if the info given actually supports the story.



CHECK THE DATE

Reposting old news stories doesn't mean they're relevant to current events.



IS IT A JOKE?

If it is too outlandish, it might be satire. Research the site and author to be sure.



CHECK YOUR BIASES

Consider if your own beliefs could affect your judgement.



ASK THE EXPERTS

Ask a librarian, or consult a fact-checking site.

Library Help for Data Research

Research Guide: <http://libguides.ucsd.edu/data-statistics>

Librarian: Annelise Sklar asklar@ucsd.edu

Types of Data

- Observational:** Captured in real-time, typically outside the lab
- Examples: Sensor readings, survey results, images, audio, video
- Experimental:** Typically generated in the lab or under controlled conditions
- Examples: test results
- Simulation:** Machine generated from test models
- Examples: climate models, economic models
- Derived /Compiled:** Generated from existing datasets
- Examples: text and data mining, compiled database, 3D models

Common Formats

- Text:** field or laboratory notes, survey responses
- Numeric:** tables, counts, measurements
- Audiovisual:** images, sound recordings, video
- Models, computer code, geospatial data**
- Discipline-specific:** FITS in astronomy, CIF in chemistry
- Instrument-specific:** equipment outputs

Numeric Data vs. Statistics

Data are raw ingredients from which statistics are created. Statistics are compiled numbers that include measurements and readable to the human eye. Statistical analysis can be performed on data to show relationships among the variables collected. Through secondary data analysis, many different researchers can re-use the same data set for different purposes.

Aggregate/Macro Data vs. Microdata

Aggregate or Macro Data are higher-level data that have been compiled from smaller units of data. For example, the Census data that you find on AmericanFactfinder have been aggregated to preserve the confidentiality of individual respondents. Microdata contain individual cases, usually individual people, or in the case of Census data, individual households. The Integrated Public Use Microdata Sample (IPUMS) for the Census provides access to the actual survey data from the Census, but eliminates information that would identify individuals.

Datasets, Studies, and Series

In data archives like ICPSR, a dataset or study is made up of the raw data file and any related files, usually the codebook and setup files. The codebook is your guide to making sense of the raw data. For survey data, the codebook usually contains the actual questionnaire and the values for the responses to each question. ICPSR uses the term series to describe collections of studies that have been repeated over time.

Common Methodologies

Cross-Sectional describes data that are only collected once.

Time Series study the same variable over time. The National Health Interview Survey is an example of time series data because the questions generally remain the same over time, but the individual respondents vary.

Longitudinal (or Panel) Studies describe surveys that are conducted repeatedly, in which the same group of respondents are surveyed each time. Panels may consist of countries, businesses, individual people, etc.

(Adapted from from Sue Erickson at Vanderbilt University <http://www.library.vanderbilt.edu/central/FindingData.htm>)

Step by Step Plan for Finding Datasets and Statistics

1. Think about who might collect the data.

- Could it have been collected by a government agency?
- A nonprofit/nongovernmental organization?
- A private business or industry group?
- Academic researchers?

Who?:

2. Look for publications that cite the dataset

- e.g. scholarly articles or government reports.
- 🔗 **Quick tip:** use your article search strategies for Google Scholar and add the word “dataset”

Sample search:

3. Once you know that what you want exists, it's time to hunt it down.

- Is it freely available on the web?
 - 🔗 Google Dataset Search: <https://toolbox.google.com/datasetsearch>
 - 🔗 IQSS (Harvard) Dataverse
 - 🔗 Quality of Government Institute (free)
 - 🔗 MacroData guide
 - 🔗 data.census.gov
 - UNdata
 - World Bank World Development Indicators
 - 🔗 **Tip:** Check regular Google—you never know!

- Or part of a package to which the library already subscribes?

<input type="checkbox"/> ICPSR (requires reg w/ UCSD email)	<input type="checkbox"/> CQ Voting & Elections Collection
<input type="checkbox"/> UC San Diego Dataverse	<input type="checkbox"/> Roper iPoll
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross-National Time Series	<input type="checkbox"/> Proquest Statistical Insight
	<input type="checkbox"/> Data-Planet
	<input type="checkbox"/> OECD iLibrary

- Can it be requested directly from the researcher? There's a reason articles usually include author contact information...