

# Tips for Getting Started on your Literature Review/Bibliography

## 1. Describe your Topic:

Example – the development of china's air defense system and how it relates to US National Security and our IOPs

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## 2. Step 1 will help you discover keywords, which you can use in performing searches.

(Also note synonymous terms for military topics/programs and spell out military acronyms)

Example --- china and air and defense

Example -- china and ballistic and missiles

Example – china and diplomacy and united and states

Example – china and united states and national and security

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## 3. Explore AUL's Resources:

Listed on AUL's website: <http://aulibrary.maxwell.af.mil> or by connecting directly to the url(s) below.

### A. Search AUL's online card catalog -- <https://sisko.au.af.mil/> -- for books and documents.

Database Search Headings Titles Patron Request History Help Exit

Database Name: Air University Libraries Catalog Search Example:

Simple Search Advanced Search Course Reserves and Reading Lists New Books

Find This: china and air and defense

Quick Limit:

- None
- Last 5 Years
- Videos
- Audios
- Internet
- Maxwell Community Library
- Gunter Community Library
- Senior NCO Academy Library

Find Results in:

- Keyword with Relevance
- Keywords from Title
- Author's last name, first name
- Title beginning with... (omit a, an, the)
- Call Number beginning with...
- Subject beginning with...
- Words from Journal Title
- Keywords (must use and/or/not)

### B. Magazine articles

- Start with 3 sources -- Ebscohost, ProQuest, and AUL Index to Military Periodicals and then explore more sources listed on: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/periodicals/per.htm>

### C. AU Library Prepared Materials

- List of Bibliographies A to Z. Each list internet sources and AUL resources on specialized topics -- <http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/bibs/bib97.htm>
- Web pages prepared for specific ACSC courses or research seminars. There may be prepared internet sites and AUL resources on your topic:
  - ACSC Course Support Web pages -- <http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/school/acsc/ay04.htm>
  - ACSC Research Seminar Web pages -- <http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/school/acsc/elec01.htm>

### D. Student Papers/Military Reports

- Online, full-text of papers from PME schools -- [http://stinet.dtic.mil/str/tr\\_fields.html](http://stinet.dtic.mil/str/tr_fields.html)  
Look at bibliographies at the end of these papers – a great place to get started!

## 4. If you cannot locate information on your topic with the steps list above, you can:

### A. List broader topic areas for searches and redo your search on those topics:

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### B. Search other library resources:

- Search further in additional library databases available at: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/dbases/>
  - Firstsearch's Database Worldcat searches for books in other libraries.
- Talk to a subject specialist regarding your topic: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/special/special.htm#suba>

### C. Search the Internet using a search engine -- <http://www.google.com>

- Using quotes can help limit the thousands of hits! Example – "pueblo Indian revolt of 1860"

### D. Use interviews, telephone calls and briefings by experts or organizations.

### E. Make an appointment with the ACSC Librarian.

- E-mail for an appointment

### F. Visit the Historical Research Agency

- A great avenue for primary resources.