

TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED ON YOUR RESEARCH

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Some resources listed below require access to subscription databases. If you cannot gain access, contact your local library for availability. AU students and faculty can contact the Center's [Web Maintainer](#) for a password.

1. Describe your topic

Example – the development of China's air defense system and how it relates to U.S. national security

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 diplomacy and United and States

Example – China and ballistic and missiles

Example – China and United States and national and security

3. Explore MSFRIC's [webpage](#)

A. Search [online](#) for MSFRIC's books, student papers, articles, government documents, etc.

B. Journal articles

Start with 3 databases – [Ebscohost](#), [ProQuest](#), and [JSTOR](#).

If the journal is not available in full-text from these sources then check [Find e-Journal](#) to see if there is another full-text source.

C. MSFRIC Prepared Materials

Review the list of [Bibliographies A to Z](#). Each lists MSFRIC and internet resources.

You can use the [Google Custom Search Box](#) on the Bibliographies page to search both bibliographies and web pages found on MSFRIC's site.

- D. [DTIC](#): Defense Technical Information Center (Student Papers/Military Reports)
- E. Examine the alphabetical list of databases which gives a brief description of each database. Perhaps one or more of these can help with your research.

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

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

B. Search other library resources:

Use MSFRIC's [Firstsearch](#) Database

Choose the Worldcat database to search for books in other libraries.

Choose the Article First database to search for journal articles from other libraries.

C. Talk to a [subject specialist](#) regarding your topic:

D. Search the internet using a search engine such as Google, Bing or Yahoo.

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

F. Visit the AF Historical Research Agency, which is a repository for primary resources about the AF.

5. See the MSFRIC [Research Resources](#) page for: links to Doctrine, International Studies, Laws & Regulations, Aviation & Space, Military History, and access to other military libraries.

6. Don't forget to take advantage other authors' research by examining the bibliographies at the end of each book, document, article, etc.