

### ***Research Starter***

1. What is your research question at this point?
2. What keywords best describe your research?
3. What factual or background information do you still need?
4. What reference sources, print or online, or databases have you already used?
5. What kinds of additional sources would you like to find?
6. Are there any sources you have identified but have not yet been able to attain?
7. Please describe any problems or concerns you have with this research project?

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Based on *Appendix E* from *The elements of research: what every student needs to know* by Mary W. George, Princeton University Press, 2008.



[simpson.edu/library](http://simpson.edu/library)

## Logging Your Research Activity

Keep track of your research activity in a Word document or notebook. This will save you time in the long run and will allow for input from faculty and research librarians.

Record the following so you do not need to backtrack:

Date of research activity

Research question

Databases searched (Discovery, Academic Search Elite, Google Scholar, etc.)

Terms and combination of terms used to find items on research topic

Search revisions or changes in research question based on search results

Complete citation information for relevant sources  
(see [Purdue OWL](#) for examples)

Where you obtained the source

Why the source will be useful for paper/project

Quotes from the source; remember page numbers