Guide to Library Research
### Time-saving Tips

- **What are you interested in?** If you have a topic you like, it will be easier to stay focused.
- **Change words before changing topic.**
- **What is your goal?** Paper? Video? Annotated Bibliography? Think about what you’re creating as you gather resources.
- **Keep list of synonyms for your search terms in order to broaden your search.**

#### Ask yourself this crucial question:
- **Do you have a researchable question?**

### Explore your research question

- **Time-saving Tips**
  - Capture it (articles, citations, call numbers, etc.) when you find it to make the citing step easier.
  - Don’t throw out potential sources too quickly. Keep everything that might be relevant in case you need to adjust your research question.
  - Find sources that will support your argument.
  - Look at the references of your best potential sources to find additional sources.

#### Ask yourself these crucial questions:
- **Do you have reliable background sources?**
- **Do you have sources that analyze or interpret your arguments/exhibits?**
- **Are you engaging with sources to make your argument?**
- **Do you have sources that evoke a method or theory needed?**

### Putting it together

- **Time-saving Tips**
  - Find a space where you will be most focused (the library might be your refuge)
  - Don’t waste loads of time on technology problems. Seek help early.
  - When citing, if you have <5 sources, make the bibliography by hand. If you have >5 sources, try a citation management software option.

#### Ask yourself this crucial question:
- **Did you answer your research question?** Put on your critic hat!

### Final Steps:

- **Ask a friend to read or view your work and give you feedback.**
- **Be sure your work is saved in the right file format and submit appropriately according to your instructor’s directions.**