Description of Research Tools

Types of Resources:

- **Books:**
  - Books will provide you with a good general overview of a topic but are generally not as up to date as the other sources.

- **Journal articles:**
  - Articles from scholarly journals and magazines tend to deal with more specific topics than books and are usually more up to date.

- **Search Engines & Websites:**
  - Google and Bing are examples of search engines where you can type in a search and receive thousands of results.
  - Since websites are so readily available and contain a variety of different information, students need to assess the quality of the information on each website.
  - Websites can provide helpful information, but an entire paper should not depend on internet sources!

- **Specialized Scholarly Search Engines:**
  - Scholarly information can be found on scholarly search engines such as Google Scholar

Basic Description of each Tool:

A. The Library Catalogue:

The Holland College Library's [Online Catalogue](#), is the tool that you will use to find books, videos, and other **physical resources** on your topic. You can also renew or request items directly from the catalogue.

In addition to searching the online catalogue you can try searching the library catalogues of **other libraries** in your local area!
Holland College Library Services has entered into borrowing agreements with other libraries which allows members of the Holland College community (faculty, staff and students) to borrow materials. For more information, please see the information regarding the CURBA Card program, which includes universities across Canada.

B. Journal Databases:

To locate journal articles on your topic, you will need to search a journal database. A journal database is essentially a searchable index of the articles available in a particular journal or in a group of journals. Most online journal databases allow you to:

- Search by keyword, subject, author, title and within specific journals
- Limit your search to specific publication types, such as scholarly or peer reviewed articles, and by date

When you select a specific article within a journal, you are interested in you are able to:

- Read the abstract
  - An Abstract is a short description of the content of a journal article. This short description is helpful in determining whether the article meets your requirements or not.
- Create the citation for each article you need
  - A Citation always includes, the author of the article, date, title, and publisher information to ensure you do not plagiarize information.
- Print physical copies of the article
- E-mail or downloadable PDFs articles to save onto your computer

If you are unable to find full text of a specific article, copy and paste the citation into an email and send it to HC Library and ask us to locate the article for you.
C. Search Engines & Websites:

The information that you find on the Internet is generally very different from the information you will find in books or journals. The main differences are:

- Anyone can put information on the Internet, which means that it can be inaccurate or wrong.
- You need to be skeptical of the information you find on websites and evaluate the page and the person/organization posting said information.

The search strategy you have developed will likely work in an Internet search engine, like google, just as it would in a database or library catalogue.

However, you should be aware that search engines have different ways of putting search strategies together.

**Tip:** while using the search modifier, AND, in Google is acceptable, it is not necessary because Google automatically inserts AND in between terms.

**Search Modifier Example:** treating autism children effective

**Google would read it as:** treating AND autism AND children AND effective

**Tip:** To use OR in a Google search, be sure to **capitalize the OR**, so Google does not ignore it.

**Example:** treating autism children effective OR restorative

**Tip:** If wanted to do research about autistic children, you need to put these terms in quotation marks or Google will treat this single term as two separate words and insert AND in between them, such as: autistic AND children

**Quotation Mark Example:** “autistic children” AND treatment

» Remember to **be cautious** when using information found on the Internet. Make sure you take the proper steps to evaluate the information that you find...
D. Scholarly Search Engines:

**Google Scholar** allows you to search for scholarly materials on the Internet.

The materials that it indexes include journal articles found in databases, theses, books and court opinions, etc.

Under “Tools” within Google Scholar, you can set your library preferences to Holland College Library to ensure you know which documents to have access to.