

## TIPS FOR GETTING STARTED ON YOUR RESEARCH\*

### A. Describe your topic in a brief sentence or two:

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

---



---

### B. Break your main topic idea into keywords you can use in performing multiple searches

(Also: list 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

---



---

### C. Explore MSFRIC’s web site: <http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/MSFRIC>

1. Search MSFRIC Collections using your keyword combinations for print and online books, student papers, articles, government documents, etc.



[http://mafbprimo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo\\_library/libweb/action/search.do?mode=Advanced&vid=MAFB](http://mafbprimo.hosted.exlibrisgroup.com/primo_library/libweb/action/search.do?mode=Advanced&vid=MAFB)

2. Browse our Individual Databases listed by subject to find additional sources not indexed in MSFRIC Collections. This includes articles, e-books, statistics, reports, etc. Our most popular starting points are **MSFRIC’s Google Scholar, Ebscohost, ProQuest, WorldCat, Jane’s and JSTOR!** Online video help is available for most databases.



<http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/databases>

3. View our **Research Guides** and **Archived Bibliographies**. Explore Air University Research, Books and Documents, Articles, Databases, Websites and Electronic Resources specifically tailored to a topic.



- [http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Subject\\_Research\\_Guides](http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Subject_Research_Guides)
- [http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/bibliography\\_archive](http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/bibliography_archive)

## Questions?

- Please **ASK MSFRIC** ([http://fairchild-mil.libanswers.com/form.php?queue\\_id=1588](http://fairchild-mil.libanswers.com/form.php?queue_id=1588)) electronically, or phone directly at 334-953-2888.
- **Contact Your School Liaison** ([http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Subject\\_Specialists#s-lib-ctab-1314008-2](http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Subject_Specialists#s-lib-ctab-1314008-2)) electronically or phone directly at 334-953-5042.

\*Please note: Some resources listed below are available only to Air University students, faculty, and staff. AU affiliated may request access: <http://fairchild-mil.libraries.com/databaserequest>.

Pease turn page over for more information...

4. If you discover a journal or magazine that is not available in full-text, click on one of these links for alternatives to find it in other sources or in print.

<http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Magazines>



5. If you still cannot locate the full-text or print version or your resource, you may request the item from another library. Air University students, faculty and staff may create an account and request items:

<https://au-af-mil.illiad.oclc.org/ILLiad/logon.html>



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

1. **Revise your topic sentence** and list broader keywords for searches and redo your search on those keywords. Your topic might be too specific. If you are stuck at this point, contact your school Liaison ([http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Subject\\_Specialists#s-lib-ctab-1314008-2](http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Subject_Specialists#s-lib-ctab-1314008-2)) electronically or phone directly at 334-953-5042.

- 
2. **Search through every research guide and FAQ** on our site: <http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/srch.php>

3. Search **additional library databases** that you did not use initially. You may find additional information on Doctrine, International Studies, Laws & Regulations, Aviation & Space, and Military History, that may extend your research: <http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/databases>

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

5. Visit the **AF Historical Research Agency**, a repository for primary resources about the Air Force. You may find organizational records, after-action reports, unit histories, and more related to your topic: <http://www.afhra.af.mil/>

6. Don't forget to take advantage of other author's research by examining the **bibliographies at the end of each book**, document, article, etc. You can take those sources and search MSFRIC collections for them or if unavailable, request them from another library.