GPC Library homepage: depts.gpc.edu/library

**GETTING STARTED**

- **Encyclopedias** provide general information and overviews on a variety of topics and concepts. They are a terrific resource to learn about your topic even if you cannot use encyclopedias in your final project. They may also help you develop search terms and give suggestions about other sources you can use. Encyclopedia Britannica Online is available through GALILEO, and most libraries have print encyclopedias in their Reference sections.
  TIP: Make a list of search terms you might want to use.
- Consider whether Internet, print, or electronic database sources are best for your topic.

**PRINT SOURCES, E-BOOKS, AND VIDEOS**

How to find print sources, e-books, and videos:

- Use the GIL catalog to locate physical books, print journals, and videos, ebooks, and streaming videos.
- GIL-Find@GPC and GIL@GPC Classic are the catalogs for materials at Georgia Perimeter College libraries. They cover the same material, but are different tools for searching the collection. Most students find GIL-Find easier to use for searching by topic.
- GIL-Find UC and GIL Classic UC show materials at college and university libraries throughout Georgia.

Once you've entered your search terms in GIL Find or GIL UC, you can narrow your search by subject, type of resource, location, and other options. For physical items, you can write down the call number to locate the item in the library, or request that the item be sent to a library closest to you. Ebooks and streaming videos can be accessed through the catalog. These may require you to enter the appropriate passwords if you're off campus.
  TIP: In GIL-Find/GIL-Find UC you can text or email citation information about each item.

Books, videos, etc. from GPC:

- Reference books, Reserve items, and periodicals can only be used in the library.
- Items not located at your home campus can be requested from the other campuses. It takes 1-2 business days for these materials to arrive at your campus library.
  - To request an item you found in GIL-Find, click on “Place Request” and complete the request from there.
  - While you are on the GIL@GPC-Classic webpage showing the record of the item you want, click on the “Request” link at the top of the page and follow the prompts.

Books from other University System libraries (GIL Express):

To have books in the GIL Universal Catalogs sent to GPC, click on the record of the item you want, and select the “GIL Express Request” link at the top of the page. Click on “Please Log in to enable GIL Express Requests, and follow the prompts.

- It takes 3-10 business days for GIL Express books to arrive at your campus library.

**NEED HELP?**

Ask a Librarian!

depts.gpc.edu/library/ask.htm

For research guide with video tutorials, see http://guides.gpc.edu/currenttopics
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**Electronic Sources from Databases**

GALILEO is a collection of databases providing access to articles, electronic books, and images.

- **Databases A-Z** leads to links to all of the databases in GALILEO
- **Browse by Subject** can help you determine which databases are relevant to your topic.
- **Journals A-Z** allows you to determine which database (if any) contains the full text of a particular journal or citation.

### Some Suggested Databases for Current Topics
(Use "Browse by Subject" to identify additional databases relevant to your topic)

| **Academic Search Complete** | General database that includes newspapers, magazines, and academic journals as early as 1975. Many articles in full text. |
|**Ebooks on EBSCOhost** | Full text books in electronic form |
|**Academic eBooks on EBSCOhost** | Full text books in electronic form |

**Tip:** Combine Searches in EBSCOHost databases by selecting the "Choose databases" tab and marking the databases you wish to include.

| **Opposing Viewpoints** | Overviews of issues from different points of view. Opinion pieces as well as articles and statistics about a wide variety of topics. |
|**CQ Electronic Library** | CQ Researcher articles provide overviews of current topics. Be aware of copyright on these articles. |
|**LexisNexis** | Newspapers, magazines, news transcripts, and academic journals, most full text, others indexed. Also contains company and legal information.  
- Includes full text New York Times from 1980 to present and Atlanta Journal-Constitution 1991 to present  
- Use "Sources" (upper left corner) to search a specific publication  
- Default date range is two years |
|**Gale Virtual Reference Library** | Full text e-books on a variety of topics. |
|**Statistical Abstract of the United States** | Need statistics to back up your points? Try this first! |

### Database Search Tips
- Try different search terms and different combinations of search terms.
- Use the results of your searches to identify other search terms.
- Use and, or, and not to connect search terms in EbscoHost databases.
- Look for full text and scholarly / academic / peer-reviewed journal search limiters.
- Look for “Help” or “Search tips” to find out more information about searching a specific database.
- A “Thesaurus” or “Subject terms” tab is included in some databases to help identify subject terms for your topic.

For research guide with video tutorials, see http://guides.gpc.edu/currenttopics