

RESEARCH SOURCES FOR

# CURRENT TOPICS

AT GPC LIBRARIES

GPC Library homepage: [www.gpc.edu/library](http://www.gpc.edu/library)

## GETTING STARTED

- **Encyclopedias** can give you general information about your topic. You may use this information to help you learn about your topic even if you cannot use encyclopedias in your final project. They may also provide words you can use as search terms and give suggestions about sources you can use.  
**TIP:** Make a list of search terms you might want to use.
- Consider whether Internet, print sources, or electronic databases are the best source for your topic.

## PRINT SOURCES AND VIDEOS

**How to find print sources and videos:**

Use the [GIL catalog](#) to locate books, print journals, and videos.

[GIL@GPC](#) is the catalog for materials at Georgia Perimeter College libraries.

[GIL Universal Catalog](#) shows materials at college and university libraries throughout the state of Georgia.

### TYPES OF SEARCHES IN GIL:

- [Quick Search](#) is the most general type of search.
- [Keyword Search](#) allows you to combine search terms.
- Use [Exact Search](#) when you know the title or author

**Books, videos, etc. from GPC:**

- Reference books and periodicals can only be used in the library.
- Other items can be checked out for 5, 14 or 28 days. They may be renewed.
- Items not located at your home campus can be requested from the other campuses:  
While you are on the webpage showing the record of the item you want, click on the "Request" link at the top of the page and follow the prompts. It takes 1-2 days for these materials to arrive at your campus library.

**Books from other University System libraries:**

- To have these books sent to GPC, while you are on the webpage showing the record of the item you want, click on the "GIL Express Request" link at the top of the page and follow the prompts.
- It takes 4-10 days for these "GIL Express" books to arrive at your campus library.

NEED HELP?  
**Ask a Librarian!**

## 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
- GPC Databases can be found on the library homepage under [Find more articles](#).

### Some Suggested Databases for Current Topics


#### EBSCOHost DATABASES

**ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE** — General database that includes newspapers, magazines, and academic journals as early as 1975. Many articles in full text.

**MASTERFILE COMPLETE** — General database includes newspapers, magazines, reference publications, biographies and images. Many articles in full text.

**NEWSPAPER SOURCE** — Selected articles from regional, national, and international newspapers, most in full text. (Others are indexed, such as the New York Times.)

**TOPICSEARCH** -- Articles on current events and hot topics from newspapers, magazines, points of view, opinion polls, and images.

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

#### OTHER DATABASES

**CQ ELECTRONIC LIBRARY** — CQ Researcher articles provide overviews of current topics.

**OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS** — Overviews of issues from different points of view. Opinion pieces as well as articles and statistics about the topic.

**EBRARY COMMUNITY COLLEGE COLLECTION** – more than 19,500 full-text e-book titles in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Sciences.

**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

### 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.
- Look for *full text* and *scholarly / academic / peer-reviewed journal* search limiters.
- Click on "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