### Research Process and Choosing a Topic

#### Learning Objectives for Section
- Identify the steps in the research process
- Develop a plan for a research paper
- Choose a research topic
- Identify keywords, synonyms, and related terms for a project
- Recognize the iterative nature of the research process

#### Related ACRL Standards Addressed

**STANDARD ONE:** The information literate student determines the nature and extent of the information needed.

- **Performance Indicator 1** - The information literate student defines and articulates the need for information.
- **Performance Indicator 3** - The information literate student considers the costs and benefits of acquiring the needed information.

**STANDARD TWO:** The information literate student accesses needed information effectively and efficiently.

- **Performance Indicator 4** - The information literate student refines the search strategy if necessary

#### Multimedia

- **Video:** The Research Process (5:39)
- **Tutorial:** Choosing a Topic
- **Video:** “So You Just Got Assigned a Research Paper…” (3:24)
- **Quiz:** Research Process and Choosing a Topic (5 questions)

#### Introduction (real world relevance)

Learn how to make a plan for your research project and get off to a good start by choosing a solid topic.

#### Topics for Discussion

**Research process**
- Project requirements
- Choose a topic
- Formulate a thesis
- Research
- Outline
- Write
- Revise

**Research Timeline** – requires close review of project requirements

**Choosing a topic**
- Area
- Subject
- Topic
- Aspect
- Description
Keywords, synonyms, related terms

Controlled vocabulary

Iterative nature of the research process: As researcher uncovers information, he/she may need to revise the topic or repeat searches with updated search terms. As the researcher outlines the argument, he/she may identify additional aspects for investigation and research.

**Activities**

Have students create an overall plan and timeline for a research project for this class or one of their other classes

Concept map in large or small groups

**Websites**

Research Project Calculator - [https://rpc.elm4you.org/](https://rpc.elm4you.org/) - includes templates for writing assignments, oral presentations, and video assignments. Project funded by Minitex. Calculator also available for download.