A. Locate Some Background Information on Your Topic

Once you have chosen your topic, spend some time reading and compiling background information in our reference resources. This is an efficient way to help you become more familiar with the intricacies of your topic and will help compile useful information (keywords, key idea, people, important dates and concepts, etc.) to prepare you to conduct productive research.

- Ask the Reference Librarian to direct you to some of the print and electronic resources we have in the library collection which might include information on your topic.

- Here are examples of some of the electronic resources available:
  - CQ Researcher (researchguides.ben.edu/cq-researcher): An excellent source of in-depth, unbiased background material on contemporary topics such as health, social trends, criminal justice, international affairs, education, the environment, technology, the economy, and more.
Plastic Pollution

Can the global mess be cleaned up?
By Jane Fullerton Lemons

Introduction
Plastic waste is clogging landfills, suffocating cityscapes, fouling oceans with massive debris fields and killing sea creatures that ingest everything from discarded fishing equipment to disposable food containers. The problem has become so acute that plastic could outweigh ocean fish by 2050. The crisis threatens not only wildlife but also human health, as plastic breaks down into microscopic pieces that enter the global food chain. Environmentalists have long promoted recycling as a key strategy for curbing plastic pollution, and more recycling plants in the United States and Asia are planned. But China — once the world’s leading recycler — announced last July that it would stop accepting plastic waste from other nations, creating uncertainty about where millions of tons of plastic refuse will go. As the threat grows, more municipalities are banning plastic shopping bags and drinking straws, and corporations are redesigning packaging to reduce waste. But conservationists say such steps will do only so far. The real solution, they say, is to stop producing so much plastic.

Overview
In two oceans a world apart, a pilot whale’s death and a sea

○ How to cite CQ Researcher

Click on Cite Now!
- **Sage eReference** for Social Science topics (including the Environment, Psychology, Business, Social Issues and more)

Enter your search terms. Consider the auto-complete suggestions

Click on a title to view the encyclopedia article

Citation help is provided.

- **Gale Virtual Reference Library** for Humanities, Social Science, Science
B. Locating Books and E-books

Compose your search

Go to the library web page and select the **Books & Videos** tab.

Enter your search terms.

Use the links in the sidebar to refine your search.

Here are some of the results of this search:
Locating print books

You'll find the print books arranged by their **Call Numbers** on the lower level of the library.

Learn more about the **lower level of the library**.

Citation Help

Click on a title for **citation help**.

Select **Cite this**

Citations formatted in APA, MLA and Chicago/Turabian
C. e-Books

E-books offer you access to information 24/7. Some (but not all) eBook publishers provide useful features such as personal bookshelves that store links to a reader's highlights, notes, bookmarks, searching capabilities and more.
Search features

You can use the book’s index, or ...

... use the search feature to look for information on your topic in the book.

Additional search features

Use the Search box to look for information on your topic in all the eBooks in this collection.

Help with eBooks

Sign In to create an account so that you have access to things like the highlighting and notepad features.

Suggestion: Watch the How to Videos on YouTube

Learn more about how to use all the eBook reader features in the libguide

Learn more about how to use books and eBooks in the Benedictine Library here: researchguides.ben.edu/books
D. Interlibrary Loan

Need more material? Expand your search to look for items in All I-Share Libraries – 80 Illinois academic libraries.

For example, a search of the catalog indicates that there is not much material on “Vaping” or “Electronic Cigarettes” in the Benedictine collection, so we will expand our search to see what is available in the I-Share Libraries.
Most I-Share libraries do not provide access to their electronic materials, so you may wish to limit your search on the results screen.

Scroll to the bottom of the screen to see if the item can be requested on Interlibrary Loan.

Check **Hide e-Resources to which I don’t have access**

Click on a title to borrow a book on Interlibrary Loan.

Check to see if item can be requested
You will need to log in to request materials.

To login, enter your barcode number. **This is the 14-digit number on the back of your BenCard.**

Your number is **2281100** followed by your 7-digit b-number (without the "b"). For example: 22811001234567

On the Library web page, select **Interlibrary Loan** to learn how to create an I-Share account and to learn more about the Interlibrary Loan service.
E. Search for Government Documents

You can also use the Government Documents Research Guide (researchguides.ben.edu/gov-docs) to locate additional government publications:

Some Examples:

1) **USA.gov**: Locates both federal and state publications.

   ![USA.gov search results](image)

   - vamping
     - Electronic Cigarettes - Smoking and Tobacco Use
     - Teens and Vaping | Get Smart About Drugs
     - Know the Risks: E-cigarettes & Young People | U.S. Surgeon ...

3. Search Google: add `site:.gov` to your search terms: