The Sixties

Civil rights
Politics
Ecology
Culture shock
Pop culture
Revolutions
War & Peace
Women's rights
Research Process

1. What are you looking for? *(topic)*
2. What types of sources might contain your desired information? *(information formats)*
3. Where will you look? *(access tools)*
4. How will you look? *(search techniques)*
5. Evaluate results
Step 1: Your Topic (What are you looking for?)

- Think about your topic before you start to search
  - Formulate research questions
  - Come up with search terms
- Continue to think about your topic during the search process
  - As you research your topic, you may come up with more questions or refine your original questions.

(You will probably narrow your original topic to a more manageable focus.)
Step 2: Information Formats

- What types of sources might answer your questions?
  - Books (circulating or reference)
  - Reference sources (print or online)
  - Newspapers
  - Magazines, scholarly journals
  - Internet or Web pages
  - Videos, CDs, DVDs
  - Interviews
Formats for your topic

- Formats:
  - Reference sources will be excellent for the 1960s topic (and for research in general)
  - Books (circulating) will give some more in-depth information
  - May find some critiques, editorials, overviews, reflections, etc. in periodicals

The Who
Step 3:
Access Tools (Where will you look?)
See the Research Guide for this class
OR

- For books and media:
  - Library catalog

- For reference sources:
  - Library catalog, databases (for print and online reference sources)

- For periodical articles (newspapers, magazines, journals):
  - A to Z Databases & Databases by Subject

- For Web sources:
  - Search engines, subject directories & guides

*Don’t forget the human access tool*

... the reference librarian!
If your topic is based on a novel or short story:

Literary analysis

- **Tim O’Brien**
  - Literary research:
    - literary criticism
    - themes, characters
    - historical, political, cultural contexts

- Historical research – 1960s
  - Cultural aspects of the Sixties
  - Political aspects of the Vietnam War and the draft, etc.

SOME HELPFUL REFERENCE BOOKS:

- Contemporary Literary Criticism (CLC)
  - *For Tim O’Brien: CLC 7,19,40,103*

- Short Story Criticism (SSC)
  - *For Tim O’Brien: SSC VOL 74*
  - *For Viet Nam War in Short Fiction: VOL SSC 79*
Reference Sources for Literary Research

- Some examples .... there are more
  - Twentieth Century Literary Criticism (TCLC)
  - American Writers
  - Literature and Its Times
  - Characters in 20th Century Literature
  - Beacham’s Encyclopedia of Popular Fiction

Pulitzer Prize for Fiction

1961

A classic from the 1960s
Step 4: Search Techniques *(How will you look?)*

- Identify your key concepts or terms:
- Vietnam research might use the following. What others can you discover?
  
  Laos, Cambodia, Thailand
  Southeast Asia
  My Lai massacre
  Military draft
  Tet offensive
  Vietcong or Viet Cong
  Guerilla warfare
  Ho Chi Minh trail
  Robert McNamara
  Henry Cabot Lodge
  President Diem (South Vietnam)
  Domino Theory
  Gulf of Tonkin
  Operation Rolling Thunder
  Saigon
  Phnom Phen
  DMZ or demilitarized zone
  Protest marches or protest demonstrations or anti-war demonstrations or peace marches
  Draft cards or military draft or selective service
  Buddhist monks and self-immolation
  Lt. General William C. Westmoreland
One of the biggest problems using online databases is either finding too much information or not enough information.
Step 4: Search Techniques

good input = good output

- **Keyword**
  - any word, any field
  - more results
  - not always relevant

- **Subject headings**
  - Reduce irrelevant results
  - Standardized, assigned by indexer or cataloguer

- **Boolean AND**
  - Narrows your search
  - Example: Vietnam AND Westmoreland
  - Example: Woodstock AND “protest music”

- **Boolean OR**
  - Broadens your search
  - Cambodia OR Vietnam
  - “Timothy Leary” OR LSD

- **Limiters**
  - Focus your search by date, format, etc.

- **Phrase searching** with “ ” (quotation marks) for a specific phrase; narrows search
Narrowing Your Search for greater precision

- Boolean “AND”  ex: “flower power” and peace
- Limiting
- Controlled vocabulary/subject headings/descriptors/thesauri
- Phrase searching with “_”
- Use narrower terms (brainstorm search terms)
Broadening Your Search to get more results

- Boolean “OR” (brainstorm for similar terms)
- Controlled vocabulary
- Truncation
- Expand search to all text
- Use broader terms

(Jimi Hendrix or Janis Joplin) and sexuality
Reference databases (there may be others!)

- Black Thought and Culture
- CQ Researcher
- Credo Daily Life
- Opposing Viewpoints
- Popular Culture Universe
- Women and Social Movements
Literary Research Center & Literature Criticism Online

- Include biographies, bibliographies, and critical analysis of authors from every age and literary discipline

- Access from links on library web site (A to Z Databases and other links)

Allen Ginsberg
A few web sites:

- The Wars for Vietnam  http://vietnam.vassar.edu/
- PBS Battlefield Vietnam  http://www.pbs.org/battlefieldvietnam/
- The Vietnam Center and Archive  http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu/
- Vietnam War Bibliography  http://www.clemson.edu/caah/history/FacultyPages/EdMoise/bibliography.html

April 15, 1967
Spring Mobilization to End the War
San Francisco (AP)
http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/MRC/pacificviet/#1967
Step 5: Evaluate Your Results

- Evaluate your search and modify where necessary
  - Did you find enough?
  - Did you use different types of resources?
  - Did you use quality resources?

- Evaluate your sources
  - Very important step!

Remember: throughout the search process you will revisit various steps in the process
Evaluative Criteria

- Author Credentials
- Publisher
- Perspective
- Accuracy
- Relevance

Basically, try to figure out WHO created this information and WHY.
Need Help?

- Ask a Reference Librarian
  - In person at the Reference Desk
  - Ask a Librarian link
  - Consult a Research Guide on the MCC Library web site
  - Or by Phone: 815.455.8762

We’re here to help you succeed!