

Encouraging  
Lifelong  
Learning

# CORE

## Comprehensive Online Research Education

Click on the "CORE" link from the Libraries' homepage,  
or visit <http://core.lib.purdue.edu>

*NOTE:* The Shockwave/Flash plug-in must be installed on your browser.  
It can be downloaded at: <http://www.macromedia.com/>

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**CORE** is an interactive tutorial, available from the "Research Help" section on the Libraries' website (<http://www.lib.purdue.edu>). It describes the process of developing an effective strategy for identifying, locating, and evaluating different types of information from a variety of sources.

**CORE** describes in detail the nature of information -- its development, storage, evaluation, and use -- and how to efficiently access materials, both locally and remotely. It is based on the principle that to be effective consumers of information, students need to learn not only how to use particular library sources, but they must also understand the process for developing effective search strategies. This process involves clarifying and refining topics, translating topics into terms that are compatible with the library and other information providers, and evaluating the information. **CORE** provides an overall framework, focusing on fundamental principles and concepts, with examples from selected information systems and resources.

Divided into modules which represent key steps of the research process, **CORE** is designed to be flexible, so that it can be used in a way that is appropriate to your learning objectives. It may be completed in its entirety, providing a full overview of the research process, or each module may be used independently, as a quick reference at the time of need or as a student proceeds through the research process.

Some additional features of CORE include a **PreTest** to help determine areas of strength and weakness, and a **Glossary**, defining basic library-related terminology. **Interactive exercises and quizzes** are available for each of the modules to help reinforce the concepts. Students' quiz results may be e-mailed to you directly, or if the student creates a **CORE** account, a progress report may be forwarded upon completion.

Some highlights of each of the **CORE** modules are:

- **Planning Your Project** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/plan1.htm>) -- offers basic considerations for defining the parameters of a research project
- **Topic Exploration** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/topic1.htm>) -- helps explore topic ideas, considering various aspects and perspectives, and identify relevant terms and phrases to use in searching
- **Types of Information** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/types1.htm>) -- provides an overview of how the creation and development of information in different subject disciplines affects the sources to select, and shows how to cite various types of sources
- **Search Basics** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/search1.htm>) -- describes the effective use of database search engines, including how to identify databases appropriate for a given need and basic search techniques
- **Types of Searches** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/typsrch1.htm>) -- explains various search options (author, title, subject, keyword, and relevancy ranked), how they function, and the benefits of each type of search
- **Keyword Searching** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/keyword1.htm>) -- explains the use of one of the more powerful search methods, including how to combine search terms with search operators; includes a *Search Worksheet* to help you correctly format your search statements (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/keyword8.htm>)
- **Libraries Catalog** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/libcat1.htm>) -- describes the various types of searches in the Purdue Libraries catalog
- **Indexes** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/indexes1.htm>) -- explains the difference between popular magazines and scholarly, peer-reviewed journals (see the chart, *What's the Difference*, at <http://www.lib.purdue.edu/ugrl/inst/difference.pdf>) and describes how to use indexes to find articles more effectively
- **Internet** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/internet1.htm>) -- a general overview of the internet, which helps to put web resources into context, with special attention to evaluating sites
- **Evaluating Sources** (<http://gemini.lib.purdue.edu/core/files/evalu1.htm>) -- a more in-depth view of evaluation criteria for all formats of information

Please contact us if you'd like to discuss how you might integrate **CORE** into your own course.

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*Access. Knowledge. Success.*