Library Research Strategy
This flowchart can help you formulate a plan for your research process:

choose a topic
- review background sources to gain a general understanding of your topic, including important definitions and concepts
- focus on terminology as you review sources
- finding good search terms helps with the steps below

gather relevant info
- for books and videos, use IUCAT
- for journal, newspaper, or magazine articles, use Journal Databases
- other sources: web, gov’t publications, statistical sources

are your results relevant?
- if not, you may try rethinking your research strategy

this helps you focus, narrow, or broaden your search

you may start with a very specific research question or a more general topic that you can refine as you look at background sources and conduct searches on the internet or in journal databases

for help with any stage of this process, ask a librarian for assistance