

# Madigan Library

## ENL111- Unsolved Mystery Research

This guide is online at:

<http://www.pct.edu/library/research/courseguides/enl111inn.pdf>

### Finding an unsolved mystery to research



WIKIPEDIA  
The Free Encyclopedia

The first step to your research paper is to unearth an unsolved mystery that interests you. If you aren't sure what mystery you want to research, try going to [Wikipedia's In Search of entry](#). This lists all the topics of the documentary-style television series *In Search Of*, investigating paranormal, historical and scientific mysteries.

### Getting background information about your topic

Now that you have a topic about which you're interested in writing, you next need to find out the facts of the mystery. Encyclopedias are great resources for getting the basic, straight facts about your topic. You'll want to try to answer the 5 W's: Who/What/Where/When/Why. The "Why" part is often the mystery you will be researching.

Some online encyclopedias you can search:

[Encyclopedia Britannica](#)



[Gale Virtual Reference Library](#)

You can also find these resources alphabetically listed on the library's homepage under **Find Articles** → Choose a database

### Defining and refining your topic

Once you know the basic information, think about the different pieces of your mystery. For example, your topic may be "King Arthur," but there are many pieces of the Arthur legend including the quest for the Holy Grail, Arthur's burial place, the sword Excalibur, Evidence versus myth. Try to pick out *at least 2 keywords* you can search in conjunction with your topic.

## Finding books, articles and websites about your mystery

Use [WorldCat](#) to identify books, videos and other materials owned by libraries around the world.

Click on Request this Item through Interlibrary Loan to log into ILLiad and have the book sent to you. You may need to create an account in ILLiad if it's your first time using it.



Use [JSTOR](#) to search for articles on historical mysteries (Pre-1990's)

Use [Proquest General](#) to search for articles on contemporary mysteries (1990's +)



## Searching for Websites



[Clusty.com](#) will break your results into smaller subjects. Great for sifting through many websites and pinpointing your topic.

[Google Books](#) has searchable electronic books, many with complete full text available



## Citing Sources MLA Style

Most resources will provide citations for you in MLA format. If not, use one of the many citation tools found on the Library's [Citing Your Sources](#) page.

### ***Madigan Library***

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