



## Guide to Sources for Current or Controversial Topics

Use this guide to help you to locate sources for controversial or current topics. Sources include both print and electronic ones. Included are appropriate strategies used to find the information from the following sources:

1. **Books**; 2. **Articles from Online Databases**; and 3. **Internet Sites**



### BOOKS

#### 1. Locate Books by Subject

In the Evergreen Valley College Library [Online Catalog](http://library.sjeccd.edu/), (<http://library.sjeccd.edu/>) choose a "Subject" search and enter your subject.

#### 2. Locate a Title within a Series

The EVC Library has a number of **series** (see listed below) covering current and controversial topics. To find a book in one of these series on a topic you are researching, use these steps:

1. In the EVC Library Catalog, choose a "Title" search and enter the title of the series (e.g., "Opposing Viewpoints Series").
2. Go through the alphabetical listing of titles to locate a topic on the one you are researching. Topics may include frequently studied ones, such as "drug abuse," "terrorism," "family violence," and "biochemical weapons."
3. Click on the title for location, call number, and availability information. Individual titles with series listed below have different call numbers and locations depending on their subject area.

Some of these series are:

- **Opposing Viewpoints Series**
- **At Issue**
- **Current Controversies**
- **Contemporary World Issues**
- **Information Series on Current Topics**

### ONLINE DATABASES



These subscription databases are used to find articles from magazines, journals, and newspapers or from online reference sources (such as encyclopedias). See the library databases page (at <http://www.evc.edu/library/find-articles> for directions for on-campus or remote access.



#### [Issues and Controversies](#)

Covers a variety of hot topics in politics, government, business, education, and popular culture. Includes timelines, primary sources, and statistical data. Great source for debates or for pro/con assignments.



### **CQ Researcher**

Reports offer in-depth, balanced coverage of political and social issues topics in health, international affairs, education, the environment, technology and the U.S. economy. Locate reports by entering terms in the "Quick Search" box or browse an alphabetical list of topics.



### **Academic Search Premier** (EBSCOhost)

This multi-disciplinary database provides full text for more than 4,600 journals, including full text for nearly 3,900 peer-reviewed titles. PDF backfiles to 1975 or further are available for well over one hundred journals, and searchable cited references are provided for more than 1,000 titles.



### **LexisNexis Academic**

Great resource for locating full-text newspaper articles. Covers over 100 U.S. and global newspapers including the *San Jose Mercury News* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.



### **Britannica Online**

Use this source to find general overviews of a particular topic of interest. Encyclopedia articles will include links to magazine articles, the most recent *New York Times* articles, web sites, and multimedia sources (e.g. video, maps) as well.

## **INTERNET SITES**



The following sources can be accessed free of charge from any computer that has access to the Internet. Find these links on the EVC Library Web Resources page at <http://www.evc.edu/library/web-resources>.

- **Policy Almanac** <http://www.policyalmanac.org/>  
Collects comprehensive background information and links on major U.S. public policy issues (e.g. education, health, the environment, criminal justice, etc.)
- **IDEA (International Debate Education Association)** <http://www.idebate.org/>  
Find arguments for and against hundreds of debating topics, background summaries and other links of interest from the International Debate Education Association.
- **ProCon.org** <http://www.procon.org/>  
Good site for finding the pros and cons of controversial issues.
- **Hot Topics (St. Ambrose University Library)**  
<http://libguides.sau.edu/hottopics>  
Browse an alphabetical list of links to sites on a variety of topics from St. Ambrose University Library.
- **Infomine** <http://infomine.ucr.edu/>  
Searchable scholarly Internet resources collectively maintained by librarians of the University of California.
- **IPL2** <http://www.ipl.org>  
Quality directory of annotated sites organized by subject. Selected and evaluated by librarians.