Shake Library offers four ways to begin locating different information for your research paper or project. Begin your research by visiting the VU Home Page at http://www.vinu.edu and clicking on Services, then Library. This leads to the library homepage. All electronic resources can be accessed off-campus by students via MY VU or Blackboard.

I. OneVU, Shake LRC’s Discovery Tool – Many of Shake LRC’s resources (periodical articles, books, ebooks, journal/periodical articles, videos, music CDs, etc.) can now be searched using OneVU, which is located at the top of the library homepage. Just select Vincennes University from the OneVU drop-down menu to search most VU library holdings. In addition, you can manage your personal library account, create lists, discover items through other users’ lists, generate citations in MLA, APA, and other formats, and more.

II. Research Databases such as Academic Search Premier and the ProQuest Research Library and many others, are used to locate periodical or journal articles. Under the Find Articles link choose Databases A-Z to browse all available electronic resources.

III. Electronic Reference Resources such as Credo Reference and the Gale Virtual Reference Library provide eBook versions of reference books like encyclopedias, dictionaries, and handbooks. Use the Databases A-Z link.

IV. Reference Books in the library’s print collection, including encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks and almanacs can be found using OneVU Discovery Tool (select Shake LRC from the drop-down menu to limit to only Shake Library books).

I. OneVU: SHAKE LIBRARY’S DISCOVERY TOOL

OneVU is a discovery tool that allows the user to use a single interface to search all library holdings to locate books, ebooks, periodical articles, media (such as videotapes/DVDs), and other library resources. Just select Vincennes University from the OneVU drop-down menu to search all VU holdings. In addition, you can manage your personal library account, create lists, discover items through other users’ lists, grab citations, and more.

OneVU has two main search options: Basic Search and Advanced Search. Basic Search can be used to find all types of resources and allows limiting to specific needs (type of resource, date ranges, etc.). Advanced Search in addition can be used to create a more refined search including title, author, keyword, and subject searching. Use Advanced Search to specify the location in the library to search (such as electronic resources, CDs and DVDs), and to narrow your search with many options.

A NOTE ON KEYWORD SEARCHING:
Several special Keyword commands can be used in OneVU. 1) Use quotations for phrase searching (“to have and have not”). 2) Use the asterisk (*) to truncate terms (such as comput* = compute computer computers computerization).

A NOTE ON ARTICLES: After locating periodical articles you will be prompted to log in using your MYVU account information to read, print or download the article, whether you are on campus or off campus. You can bypass OneVU if desired and still search for articles using specific resources by selecting your choice from the Databases A-Z listing.

II. RESEARCH DATABASES

Shake Library provides databases for finding articles and information from journals, magazines, newspapers, and other sources. Listed below are databases that are good starting points for English Composition Research.
A. ACADeMIC SEARCH PREMIER
Access to 3,900 full-text peer reviewed journals and 4,600 total full text journals on topics from all academic disciplines.

B. GALE OPPoRING VIEWPOINTS IN CONTEXT
Access more than 14,000 pro/con essays, over 5,000 topic overviews, 5 million periodical articles, 6,000 statistical tables, charts, and graphs. Also includes images, podcasts, and court case overviews.

C. PROQUEST RESEARCH LIBRARY
Provides access to over 3,600 full-text journals on topics including: the arts, business, education, health and medical, humanities, law, military, multicultural studies, psychology, sciences, social sciences, and women's studies.

HINT: Look for the “Help” or “Search Tips” link in any database for information on using truncation, wildcards, and other shortcuts.

III. ELECTRONIC REFERENCE RESOURCES
Shake Library also offers electronic reference resources. These items include encyclopedias, handbooks, dictionaries, and more.

1. CREDO REFERENCE
Reference eBooks on topics including: art, food & beverage, language, medicine, psychology, social sciences, biographies, geography, law, music, religion, technology, business, history, literature, philosophy, and science.

2. GALE VIRTUAL REFERENCE LIBRARY
Collection of Reference eBooks on topics including: the arts, biographies, business, education, environment, history, law, literature, medicine, multicultural studies, nation & world, religion, social sciences, science, and technology.

3. OXFORD ENGLISH DICTIONARY
The most authoritative and comprehensive dictionary of English in the world.

IV. REFERENCE BOOKS - PRINT RESOURCES
Most libraries contain special reference collections containing encyclopedias, almanacs, law books and many other works. OneVU lists their locations as “Shake LRC Reference.” Examples of the types of reference books found at Shake Library are listed below:

Encyclopedias
A good place to begin research is often an encyclopedia-- especially if you have limited background knowledge of your topic. The library has both general and specialized or subject-specific encyclopedias. A useful general encyclopedia is the World Book Encyclopedia. An example of a subject-specific encyclopedia is The Encyclopedia of Religion.

Dictionaries
The library also has general and subject-specific dictionaries. Dictionaries are useful for finding the definitions of words and terms. An example of a general dictionary is the American Heritage College Dictionary. An example of a subject-specific dictionary is The Complete Costume Dictionary.
Almanacs
Usually published periodically, often yearly, almanacs provide facts and statistics about a particular topic, generally focusing on the developments of the past year. Examples of almanacs are: *The African American Almanac* and *Baseball America 2012 Almanac*.

Annuals
Annual reference books, as the name implies, are published every year, often in a series; an example of an annual is Magill’s Cinema Annual, which is a good source to use when needing print reviews of films/movies.

V. BEYOND THE WEB: WHY USE LIBRARY RESOURCES INSTEAD OF WIKIPEDIA?

Resources from VU Libraries are considered authoritative and reliable because these scholarly works are often written by experts in their fields, and subjected to an editorial process, fact-checking, or peer-review by professionals in the field. Also, the quality of the information has been evaluated by one or more librarians before it appears in the library.

While Wikipedia can be an acceptable starting point for gathering background information, it is never an acceptable resource to cite in academic papers because its articles can be created or edited by anyone and do not go through the same editorial or peer review processes as most library resources.

For more information, read the VU Libraries Guide titled *Evaluating Web Resources*, which can be found by going to the VU Home Page at [http://www.vinu.edu](http://www.vinu.edu), clicking on Services/Library/Research, then Library Guides, and then the Library Information Sources heading.