ONLINE RESOURCES: LOCATING ARTICLES

The databases containing periodical (magazine, journal and newspaper) articles are accessed by going to the library's home page at http://www.vinu.edu, clicking the Library icon (top right), accessing Find Articles, then Databases A-Z, and then selecting the electronic resource you want to search. The resources below are excellent starting points for locating articles on contemporary issues, topics, events, and trends.

- **CQ Researcher** provides up-to-date, unbiased research reports on issues in the news. Topics include: health, social trends, criminal justice, international affairs, education, the environment, technology, and the economy.

- **EBSCOhost** is a collection of commercial databases providing coverage to full text articles from journals, magazines and newspapers. This outstanding resource has many databases that cover current information on a wide variety of topics, such as: *Associates Program Source* (focuses on a wide variety of topics related to many VU courses), *Academic Search Premier* (more scholarly focus), *MasterFILE Premier* (more popular focus) and many other resources.

- **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** contains full text articles from popular magazines, scholarly journals, newspapers and Web sites. This is an excellent resource for finding articles and essays that argue different points of view about many different topics and issues. 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.

- **SIRS** is an online collection of the following SIRS reference databases: (1) *SIRS Researcher* – A resource covering current social issues; (2) *SIRS Government Reporter* – A resource providing information from the federal government; and (3) *SIRS Renaissance* – A resource containing full text articles related to the fine arts and humanities.

SELECTED ONLINE NEWS SOURCES

Numerous news web sites of varying political focus/bias are available. The following should provide current news articles on most recent and immediate events, arranged in topics such as
World, U.S. Business, Science, Sports, Technology, etc.

- Google News
  [http://news.google.com](http://news.google.com)

- CNN

- Fox News
  [http://www.foxnews.com](http://www.foxnews.com)

- Slate
  [http://www.slate.com](http://www.slate.com)

- Indianapolis Star
  [http://www.indystar.com](http://www.indystar.com)

- BBC (British Broadcasting)

**HELPFUL REFERENCE BOOKS**

Use the library’s catalog, VU WebCat, to locate books and other materials from the library’s collections. To access VU WebCat, go to the library’s home page at [http://www.vinu.edu](http://www.vinu.edu), click the Library icon, top right, access Find Books and eBooks, and then click VU WebCat. Use Basic (the default) or Advanced searching (Advanced gives you more options, plus the ability to do location searching, such as Reference books only). The list of series titles below found in the Reference Collection is a good starting point for finding information on contemporary issues.

- **Information Series on Current Topics** (Ref. 360 I43) - A reference series providing excellent descriptive, narrative and statistical information related to many general topics. Abortion, crime, endangered species, immigration, and violent relationships are some of the topics covered.

- **Library in a Book** (Ref. 360 L697da) A series that comprises comprehensive, balanced, one-volume reference handbooks on important topics related to health, education, and social issues.

- **World Book Encyclopedia** (Ref. 030 W927w) – Excellent general encyclopedia that covers a multitude of topics. An encyclopedia can be a good starting point for learning about your topic or a place to seek background information on a current event.

**BROWSING PRINT MAGAZINES**

The library’s print magazine collection (to the left as you enter the library) provides a variety of good news magazines you can browse for ideas. For instance, try current/recent copies of *American History, American Scientist, Current History, Dissent, Macleans, The Nation, National Geographic, National Review, The New Republic, Scientific American, Smithsonian, Sports Illustrated, and Time.*