Developing Your Research Topic
Cornerstone/Seminar @ Millstein Library

General Research Topic is Food & Nutrition.

1. As with most topics, there are many areas that could be researched: scientific, legal, social, economic, political... With your group, talk about your interests and decide on keywords, and alternatives (synonyms) to those keywords, to narrow down this topic.

   Examples: GMO – Altered Foods, Organic Food – Natural Food

   Keyword 1:  Alternative Keyword 1:

   Keyword 2:  Alternative Keyword 2:

   Keyword 3:  Alternative Keyword 3:

   Keyword 4:  Alternative Keyword 4:

2. Now create one research statement using two of the keywords you listed above. My paper will answer or address the follow question or statement:

3. List 3 or more resources available to you in order to help you in this process. Hint: People are resources, and so are types of books.
Work with your group to answer these questions about your assigned database.

1. Write a brief description of the database. (Hint: look at the short description given on the Databases A-Z page to answer this question).

2. Now begin a search. Try typing “food” into the search box – how many results do you come up with?

3. Start a new search and select one of your keywords from our earlier exercise. How many results do you get?

4. Add one of your alternative keywords to your search. We recommend looking for a link to "advanced search" or "modify search" for this step. What does this do to your results?

5. Often when doing research, it’s helpful to focus on articles published recently. Try narrowing down your search to only articles published after 2014. What happens?

6. What do you think about the results? Too many? Not enough? How would you fix this? Also, can you narrow down the results to only scholarly articles?

7. Choose an article to examine. Make sure you know how to access these features:
   ____ Full text
   ____ Print
   ____ Citation for your bibliography/works cited page