Choosing a Topic - Part 3

Madison College Library Catalog

Let's say you have been assigned to write a paper on the general topic of 'Social Media' and you're not sure where to begin.

In Madison College Libraries Catalog, you'll find:
- Books
- E-Books
- DVDs
- Streaming Videos

The center section of the Libraries' home page can be used to quickly search the catalog.

However, you will have more options if you use the catalog's advanced search feature.
In general, it's better to start a catalog search with a broad term. So let's try a keywords or phrase search using the term, 'Social media'.

Since we have used a broad search strategy, some of our results will be irrelevant.

Further down in our list of results, we do find one that appears more relevant to our broad topic, a book called, "The Tao of Twitter." Sometimes, when we click on the catalog record for an item...Go ahead, click 'Catalog Record'.

We can see what subjects are associated with this topic. And, if we click on that subject... We can see what the subjects that are associated with this topic are. And if we click on that subject...Yes, click on it, please!

You will be given a list of results that are an even better match for this topic.

Let's say you are interested in the look of this record, which is 22 minute film on the dangers of social networking. To view it, click the link 'Connect to this resources online', which is what you will need to do to view the streaming videos in our collection and to use the E-Books.
Slide 13 - Video
Once the play window appears, you will be able to decide whether or not the aspects of this topic are of any interest to you.
Text Captions: Video

Slide 14 - Research questions. The next step, once you have narrowed your topic idea, is to create some research questions that will inform the remainder of your research.
Text Captions: Research Questions: What are the best methods to protect oneself when using social networking sites? How do social networking sites increase our financial vulnerability? How do social networking sites increase risks to personal safety?

Slide 15 - Reference and Research Help Link
If you do find you need the help of a Madison College Librarian at any point during your research, Click on the 'Reference and Research Help' link on our home page.
Text Captions: Reference & Research Help

Slide 16 - As Us!
There, you will find all the options for contacting us. We're here to help!
Text Captions: Research Help

Slide 17 - Thanks
Text Captions: Thanks for viewing this HOWLER tutorial!