

## **Finding Research and Resources**

### **Organizing and Compiling Information**

Research is conducted by many people throughout the world. We all learn from one another and share research. To do this effectively, many disciplines have agreed to document research using a common formatting style. There are two organizations with guidelines on how to format research papers for publication and, therefore, share them with others. Research papers use either MLA format (Modern Language Association) or APA format (American Psychological Association). While either format can be used, authors are usually directed by the discipline on which to use. MLA is used widely for research in humanities and science. APA format is used in research with psychology. They are very similar in guidelines, although when submitting something for publication, publishers are very particular about details.

**CVU uses MLA format.** CVU Library page provides a link to an MLA guide. Purdue OWL is another reference, although more extensive:

<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>.

### **Keeping Organized**

It is difficult to keep research organized. As you read articles and look for published resources, some will support your learning, while others may prove to be irrelevant (even though they may be interesting), poorly written, or not a valid resource (a blog, for example). In your initial phase of finding information, it is important to keep track of what has value to your research, where you found it, and to jot down a few notes so you can relocate it and refer to it when you need it. How do you keep track of all of your resources while you are learning, searching, and not yet sure of what your organizing thesis, questions, or paper outline may be.

Two methods of organizing information about resources and quotations are provided.