

# Tips for Starting Your Research

## Step 1 - Describe your topic:

Example – The development of China’s air defense system and how it relates to U.S. national security

## Step 2 – Identify Your Keywords:

Use the description you developed in Step 1 above to identify the keywords you will need to use to run searches in the databases. Also note synonymous terms for military topics/programs and spell out military acronyms.

Example – China and air and defense

Example - China and diplomacy and United and States

Example – China and ballistic and missiles

Example – China and United States and national and security

## Step 3 – Explore MSFRIC’s resources:

Distance Learning PME students have access to the extensive resources of Air University’s Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center (MSFRIC). The following is a generic process for searching the MSFRIC resources. Depending on your familiarity with research and the specific topic you are exploring, a different order may make more sense.

Some resources listed below utilize subscription databases which require our MSFRIC userid and password to access. **The userid and password are listed on the Blackboard page you used to access this pdf.** If those do not work, [submit a help ticket](#) to get the issue resolved.

**A. Search databases:** MSFRIC has a plethora of databases covering a variety of journals and other publications. The table below may be helpful as a starting point.

Looking For:	Use databases:	Information about:
Articles	<a href="#">EBSCOHOST</a> <a href="#">JSTOR</a> <a href="#">PROQUEST</a>	Global Business Economic Security Geopolitical Affairs
Country Information	<a href="#">COUNTRYWATCH</a> <a href="#">STRATFOR</a>	Demographics Political Economic Business Cultural Environment
Military and Government	<a href="#">DTIC</a> <a href="#">JANE’S</a> <a href="#">PERISCOPE</a>	Security Developments Open-source Order of battle -Equipment inventories Security

The MSFRIC webpage (<http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/databases>) has a very large number of links to databases. Here is a guide to help you navigate to the databases noted in the previous table:

**Muir S. Fairchild Research Information Center**  
*Knowledge Itself is Power*

MSFRIC / The FRIC LibGuides / AU Student Support & Research Guides / Databases / ...

Databases: ...

**MSFRIC Databases: A-Z**

- MSFRIC Databases & Resources: A-Z  
May require password

**Reference Tools**

- Biography In Context (Gale)
- Book Index with Reviews
- Business Index (Gale)
- Chicago Manual of Style
- Chilton Library - auto repair(Gale)

**Featured Database**

**HSDL** Homeland Security Digital Library  
 Documents related to homeland security policy, strategy, and organizational management.  
[more...](#)

**News & Current Events**

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution
- ABYZ News Links (Foreign News)
- Boston Globe

**Air Force**

- AFis & e-Pubs
- AF Base Newspapers
- AU F
- Air F
- AUR
- Air F
- Arch
- Air F
- Air F
- Air F
- Care

**Military and Government – includes DTIC, JANE’S, and PERISCOPE**

**Articles – includes EBSCOHOST, JSTOR, & PROQUEST**  
 Note the tutorial links for Ebscohost and JSTOR: We recommend watching the “Introduction to EBSCOhost” video and going through the “JSTOR Overview PowerPoint” to streamline your research efforts.

**General Databases**

- Academic Search Premier(Ebscohost) — Tutorial
- Dissertations (Proquest’s PQDT)
- Ebscohost EBooks — Tutorial
- ERIC
- FirstSearch
- Gale
- JSTOR Arts & Science — Tutorial
- Proquest Research Libr
- Taylor & Francis
- Transparent Language
- WestlawNext

**E-Books & E-Magazines**

- MSFRIC E-Books
- Overdrive
- Google Books
- Project Gutenberg E-books
- Safari
- Zinio

**Digital Images**

- Image Quest
- Defense Imagery
- U.S. Defense Dept Multimedia/Photos

**Geopolitical**

- Anthrosource
- Columbia International Affairs Online
- Country Watch
- CultureGrams
- Europa World Plus
- Global Issues In Context (Gale)
- OECD iLibrary
- Military Periscope
- Praeger Security International (PSI) — Tutorial
- Politics and International Relations
- Stratfor
- UNdata
- Wilson Center

**Country Information – includes COUNTRYWATCH & STRATFOR**

**Preview our Trial Data**

- NSSI Newsletter - .mil & CAC required  
 The NSSI publishes a weekly newsletter each Friday, NSSI Space Weekly, which consolidates space articles from numerous sources. NSSI Space Weekly contains a wealth of information that will keep air and space warfighters abreast of current events and rapidly evolving technologies.

**Military**

- AULIMP — Tutorial
- DTIC
- Forecast International/DMS
- Homeland Security Digital Library
- IHS Jane’s
- Joint Electronic Library
- Lancaster Index
- Military/Gov. Collection (Ebscohost)
- Military Periscope

**U.S. Government**

- Declassified Documents Reference System
- Digital National Security Archives
- FDays - GPO Access
- Congressional Publications (ProQuest)
- Open Source Center:FBIS
- Uniform Code of Military Justice

**Science and Health**

- AIAA  
 American Society for Microbiology
- Science In Context(Gale)
- Wiley Online Library

The databases highlighted above are an excellent starting point for your research but we recommend working your way through the rest of the MSFRIC resources provided in sections B, C, D and E below.

**B. Search MSFRIC Collections** (<http://www.au.af.mil/au/aulane.htm>) for MSFRIC’s books, student papers, articles, government documents, etc. This will search through MSFRIC’s collection and Air University research.



**C. Search the MSFRIC Student Support & Research Guides page** ([http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Get\\_Started](http://fairchild-mil.libguides.com/Get_Started)) to find databases, journal articles, books and more. This search focuses on “Subject Research Guides” (MSFRIC compiled information on specific topics) and AU School Support pages (MSFRIC compiled resources for each of the AU schools). Prior to 2013 MSFRIC created “Bibliographies” instead of Subject Research Guides. The Bibliographies are not part of the search, but if your research topic doesn’t limit you to information after 2013, then a review of the Bibliographies may provide some excellent resources for you to use.



**D. Search the eBook collections** – There are several eBook sources, but there two that you a .mil computer to create an account in order to access. Those are the MSFRIC ([Ebscohost](#)) eBooks and the [Overdrive](#).

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*Knowledge Itself is Power*

MSFRIC / The FRIC LibGuides / AU Student Support & Research Guides / Databases / ...

Databases: ...

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**Reference Tools**

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- Book Index with Reviews
- Business Index (Gale)
- Chicago Manual of Style
- Chilton Library - auto repair(Gale)
- GREENR (Gale)
- Gale Directory Library (Gale)
- Google Scholar for MSFRIC
- Library of Congress
- New York Times Book Reviews
- Opposing Viewpoints (Gale)
- Serials Directory
- Student Resources In Context (Gale)
- Virtual Reference Library (Gale)
- Wiley Online Library

**General Databases**

- Academic Search Premier(Ebscohost) -- Tutorial
- Dissertations (Proquest's PQDT)
- Ebscohost eBooks -- Tutorial
- ERIC
- FirstSearch
- Gale
- JSTOR Arts & Sciences -- Tutorial
- Proquest Research Library
- Taylor & Francis
- Transparent Language
- WestlawNext

**E-Books & E-Magazines**

- MSFRIC E-Books
- Overdrive
- Google Books
- Project Gutenberg E-books
- Safari
- Zinio

**Digital Images**

- Image Quest
- Defense Imagery
- U.S. Defense Dept Multimedia/Photos

**Featured Database**

**HSDL** Homeland Security Digital Library  
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[more...](#)

**News & Current Events**

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution
- ABYZ News Links (Foreign News)
- Boston Globe
- Chicago Tribune
- The Christian Science Monitor
- Chroniling America
- Early Bird
- Latin News.com
- Los Angeles Times
- National Newspapers (Proquest)
- New York Times (1980-Present)
- New York Times Historical Archive (1851-2012)
- Newsbank
- U.S. Department of Defense Speeches
- USA Today
- Wall Street Journal
- Washington Post

**Geopolitical**

- Anthrosource
- Columbia International Affairs Online
- Country Watch
- CultureGrams
- Europa World Plus
- Global Issues In Context (Gale)
- OECD ILibrary
- Military Periscope
- Praeger Security International (PSI) -- Tutorial
- Politics and International Relations
- Stratfor
- UNdata
- Wilson Center

**Preview our Trial Databases**

- NSSI Newsletter - \*.mil & CAC required  
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**Air Force**

- AFis & e-Pubs
- AF Base Newspapers
- AU Press Publications
- Air Force Times
- AURIMS
- Air Force Doctrine
- Archived Air Force Doctrine
- Air Force History Index
- Air Force JAG
- Air Force Resource Center
- Career Transitions (Gale)

**Military**

- AJULIMP -- Tutorial
- DTIC
- Forecast International/DMS
- Homeland Security Digital Library
- IHS Jane's
- Joint Electronic Library
- Lancaster Index
- Military/Gov. Collection (Ebscohost)
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- Digital National Security Archives
- FDsys - GPO Access
- Congressional Publications (ProQuest)
- Open Source Center/FBIS
- Uniform Code of Military Justice

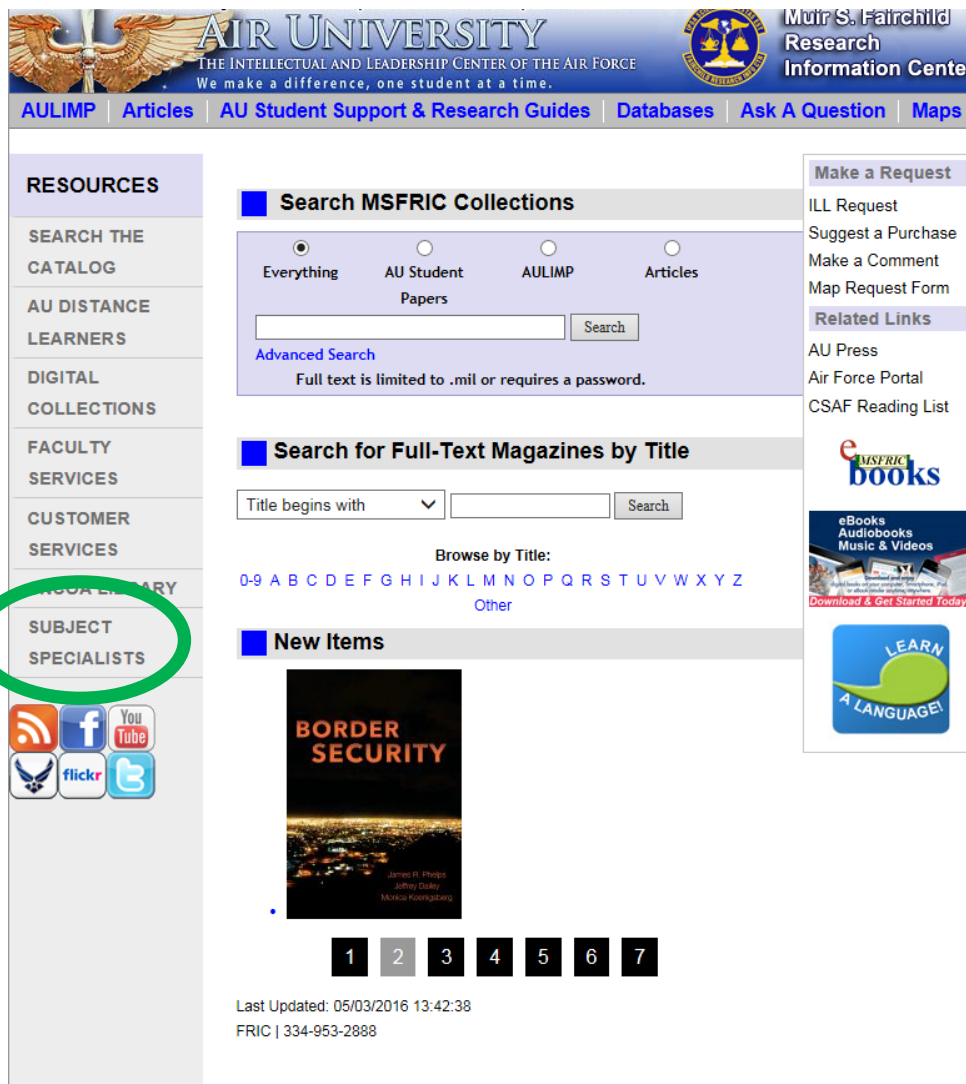
**Science and Health**

- AIAA
- American Society for Microbiology
- CDC
- National Library of Medicine(NLM)
- New England Journal of Medicine
- OSTI Scientific and Tech Info
- ScienceDirect
- Science In Context(Gale)
- Wiley Online Library

The specific information to utilize Ebscohost eBooks and Overdrive are presented in the table below. Ebscohost eBooks are generally more oriented to research and the Overdrive eBooks (audiobooks, videos and music) are generally more oriented to non-research uses.

	<b>EbscoEbooks</b>	<b>Overdrive</b>
<b>How do I get there?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Go to the library's Databases page <a href="http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/laseter.htm">http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/laseter.htm</a></li> <li>2. Click on MSFRIC (<a href="#">Ebscohost</a>) eBooks</li> <li>3. Use the library username &amp; password from your program's blackboard support page</li> </ol>	URL is <a href="http://af.lib.overdrive.com/">http://af.lib.overdrive.com/</a>
<b>Eligibility</b>	Only <b>current</b> Air University Faculty, Students, Staff	AF military, civilians, contractors, retirees, and families
<b>Getting an Account</b>	Must create a personal MyEbscohost Account to check Ebooks out	Self-Registration with a .mil email (must be able to click the link in your email to verify and activate)
<b>Scope of Collection</b>	Academic, educational, military	CSAF reading list, popular reading, fiction, biographies, academic, military
<b>Items Available</b>	Ebooks only (51,867 items total)	Ebooks -5769 Audiobooks - 4273 Videos - 427 Music - 252 <b>Total = 10,721items!</b>
<b>Lending Period</b>	Choose 1 to 7 Days	Choose 7, 10 or 14 Days
<b>How Many at a Time</b>	No limit	5 items
<b>Compatible Devices</b>	B&N Nook, Sony eReader, & more NOT Amazon Kindles Full list - <a href="http://blogs.adobe.com/digitalpublishing/supported-devices">http://blogs.adobe.com/digitalpublishing/supported-devices</a>	B&N Nook, Amazon Kindle, Sony eReader, & more Full list - <a href="http://www.overdrive.com/resources/drc/">www.overdrive.com/resources/drc/</a>
<b>Software Needed</b>	Adobe Digital Editions  Adobe Digital Editions is now AF-approved, and can be installed on AF machines. See your unit's IT POC for more information.	Overdrive Media Console allows you to download items directly to device

**E. Talk to a subject specialist** on the MSFRIC staff regarding your topic. They want to help you so take advantage of their knowledge and expertise to help you find resources for your topic. Although a phone number is provided, it is probably easier to simply email the specialist. Email works 24 hours a day and ensures they have a way to send the information you. The list of subject specialists with phone numbers and email addresses can be accessed from the MSFRIC home page (<http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/lane.htm>) at the bottom of the left-hand column.



### Step 4 – What to do if the first three steps weren’t enough:

- A. Review the bibliographies of your sources** - Don’t forget to take advantage of other author’s research by examining the bibliographies at the end of each book, document, article, etc.
- B. Adjust your search** – Consider how you can broaden the topic description or what additional keywords can be added to expand your searches.



**C. Search other library resources –**

1. Use MSFRIC's Worldcat Discovery (FirstSearch) Database at <http://airuniversitylibrary.on.worldcat.org/> , to search for books in other libraries. If a nearby library has the book you can visit that library, otherwise you may be able to get the book at your local library if they have inter-library loan capability. This could also give you access to paper books from MSFRIC.

2. Explore links from MSFRIC Research Resources page <http://www.au.af.mil/au/aul/wsites.htm> for links to Doctrine, International Studies, Laws & Regulations, Aviation & Space, Military History, and access to other military libraries.

**D. Contact an expert** - Use interviews, telephone calls and briefings by experts or organizations.

**E. Visit the [AF Historical Research Agency](#)** – This is a great repository for primary resources about the Air Force.

**F. Search the Internet** - Using a search engine such as Google, Bing, Yahoo, etc.