

# Tips for Quality Research

## 1. Make sure you fully understand the requirements of the assignment



- Be sure to consult the syllabus, instructions given in class, and if necessary, the professor, about the requirements for the project/assignment.
- If you are given the option of a topic to write on, choose something that you are interested in. It will make writing your paper much more enjoyable.

## 2. Get suggestions from your professors and/or the librarian.

- Your professors know a wealth of information. Ask them about good books, articles, and websites pertaining to the project/assignment.
- Librarians are also a great help. Concisely explain to them what you are researching, so they will be able to point you in the right direction.

## 3. Use the Internet

- The Internet can be a great help in your research, and sometimes it is the best place to start researching your topic.
- **Although search engines such as Google are helpful, be sure to use online sources Calvary provides such as the Library's online catalog and the EBSCO research database. Both are found on Calvary's website**
- When using websites for information, .org .gov and .edu websites are usually the best sources.

## 4. Use bibliographies

- Use the books and articles listed in the bibliographies of dictionaries and encyclopedias as sources for your research.
- From the quality books, articles, or websites that you have chosen, look at their bibliographies. These may lead to other quality sources.

## 5. Professional/Academic Journal Articles

- **Galaxie Theological Journals, ProQuest, ERIC, and EBSCOhost** are some tools available in the library for scholarly research; they are similar to Internet search engines. Ask a librarian or Learning Center tutor for help, if necessary. The Galaxie software is also available on the student portal.
- **Google Scholar** is another valuable resource for finding journal articles.



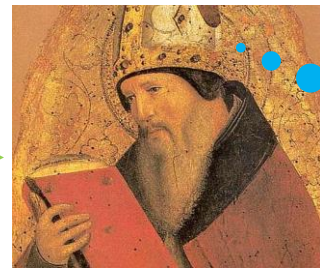
## 6. Make use of the ILL

- Calvary has access to hundreds of thousands of books through the inter-library loan (ILL) system; if Calvary's library does not have the book[s] you need, another library may have it. Ask a librarian if you need help finding a specific book.

## 7. Use primary sources whenever possible.

- **Primary sources** are the sources that are closest to the topic being researched. These are always preferable and carry far more weight as resources than secondary sources.

Example: Use the actual writings of Augustine rather than another author's interpretation of Augustine's writings.



"This world's a bubble"

- **Secondary sources** are sources that are secondhand accounts of an event, person, or person's writings. When combined with primary sources, they are very helpful in gaining a fuller understanding of your topic.