




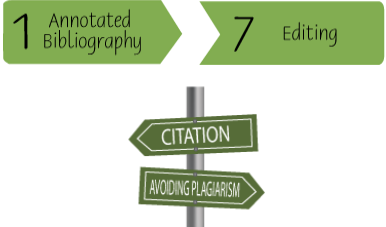



# Carol Kuhlthau's Information Seeking Process (ISP)

Additions by Jasmine Cieszynski, Benner Library, Olivet Nazarene University. Created June 2016. Updated August 2017.

	Initiation 	Selection 	Exploration 	Formulation 	Collection 	Presentation 	Assessment
Feeling	Uncertainty	Optimism	Confusion Frustration Doubt	Clarity	Sense of direction / Confidence	Satisfaction or Disappointment	Sense of accomplishment
Thinking	Vague			Focused; Increased interest			Increased self-awareness
Actions	Exploring (seeking <i>relevant</i> information)			Documenting (seeking <i>pertinent</i> information)			
Benner Tips	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read assignment</b> to understand what's required.</li> <li><b>Reflect on previous experiences:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How will this be similar?</li> <li>What do you need to learn in order to tackle the new project?</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Discuss approaches</b> to research in class and library session.</li> <li><b>Discuss possible topics</b> with classmates, professor, or librarian.</li> </ol>	<p><b>From Kuhlthau's ISP model</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>“Typical actions are to confer with others or</li> <li>...make a preliminary search of information available</li> <li>...skim and scan for an overview of alternative topics.</li> </ul> <p>When...selection is delayed or postponed, feelings of anxiety are likely to intensify until the choice is made.”</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Talk with a librarian</b></li> <li><b>Make a concept map</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct focus question (problem/issue you want the concept map to help resolve)</li> <li>Identify key concepts</li> <li>Rank-order concepts</li> <li>Construct initial concept map (use linking words: provides, have, in order to</li> <li>Revise concept map as you learn more</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Don't give up!</b></li> </ol>	<p><b>From Kuhlthau's ISP model</b></p> <p>“The four criteria used to select a topic may be again employed to choose a focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Task;</b> What am I trying to accomplish?</li> <li><b>Time;</b> How much time do I have?</li> <li><b>Interest;</b> What do I find personally interesting?</li> <li><b>Availability;</b> What information is available to me?”</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Read and Take notes</b></li> <li><b>Organize sources according to how they help you build your paper/argument</b></li> <li><b>Evaluate your sources</b></li> <li><b>Signs you're completing this stage:</b> <p>~Find fewer “new” articles; keep finding the same citations again.</p> <p>~New articles you find have less relevance.</p> </li> </ol>		<p><b>Satisfied?</b> Reflect on what worked well so you can do it again in the future.</p> <p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organization system</li> <li>Expertise with citation style</li> <li>Accuracy in formatting paper</li> <li>Appropriate research tools used</li> <li>Enough time allowed to complete project?</li> <li>Helpful feedback on outline and drafts?</li> </ul> <p><b>Disappointed?</b> Reflect on how you can improve the outcome in your next research project.</p>

Kuhlthau, C.C. (n.d.). *Information Search Process*. Retrieved from <http://wp.comminfo.rutgers.edu/ckuhlthau/information-search-process/>

**College Writing II class website** <http://library.olivet.edu/subject-guides/english/college-writing-ii/>