

Library Research Methods

To find a book (circulating, reference, and/or electronic) for a preliminary examination of a topic:

- Visit <http://focus.pcsb.org> and log in with your student account. Choose Library Resources and then choose Destiny - Pinellas District Search >>> click on **St. Petersburg High**, and then the **Catalog** tab >>> it helps sometimes to narrow your search for a certain Material Type >>> Using the Find field, conduct a **keyword, title, author or subject search**.

A **keyword search** will search everywhere throughout the bibliographic record. For instance, searching for **Malcolm X** within the **keyword field** displays 16 results

- You can add Boolean operators (i.e. AND, OR, NOT) easily in the Find field in order to combine/eliminate keywords, subjects and other concepts to your search query. Try **Greek AND sculpture**. If that is not exactly what you are looking for, you can also click Browse Subjects to find related material. You can also try a Power Search to add other keywords and delimiters to your search.

To find articles in journals, magazines, newspapers and more:

-Visit <http://focus.pcsb.org>, click on Library Resources>Gale Databases. Choose **St. Petersburg High School**. Here you will find several databases. (**Gale PowerSearch, Academic OneFile, Literature Resource Center**, are all good first choices.) If you are using the databases from home, the access code is **pinellas**.

The screenshot shows the Gale PowerSearch website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Logout, My Library Links, English, and Sign In. The main header features the Gale logo and the text "PowerSearch". Below the header, there are icons for Advanced, Bookmark, and More. The main content area has a large search bar with the text "DISCOVER MILLIONS OF FULL TEXT PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARLY ARTICLES" above it. The search bar contains a magnifying glass icon, the text "Search...", and a dropdown menu for "Basic Search" with a right arrow. Below the search bar, there are two buttons: "SUBJECT GUIDE SEARCH" and "PUBLICATION SEARCH". At the bottom, there is a "TOPIC FINDER" section with a circular icon and the text "Use the Topic Finder to discover the context of your search term and uncover hidden connections." and "Topic Finder".

Don't forget to cite your sources!

- The Son of Citation Machine (www.citationmachine.net) can be helpful, but keep in mind that it will not produce flawless citations.

- **Note:** Databases (e.g. *Academic OneFile*) will generate citations when a researcher finds an article. However, it is important to confirm that the citation is correct.