To start your library research, use Omni. Omni, the library search interface, will help you find books, articles, videos, maps, primary sources and all other library materials.

Before we go any further, it's important to learn about facets. Facets are the multiple sides and angles a shape can have. All library resources, such as books, have facets, too. When searching for resources, you need to consider the facets that are important to you.

Important facet limits are: content type, availability, peer reviewed, publication date.

Now that we know about facets, we can begin! Need an easy way to start a research assignment? Scan the bibliographies in your readings. If your assignment is about the use of films in fascist Italy and Germany, check all relevant readings for additional sources. For example, Cinema and fascism and Italian film

Great! Omni found 19 matches. Not all of them are the book though. Look for "BOOK" on the record information. While you are on this page – check out the facets – availability, resource type, and especially "Subject". Facsim and Italy are subject headings. This information will be helpful in a minute.

What if you DON'T have a reference list or bibliography? Go to the advanced search screen in Omni and type in Your search statement.

Something like this would be great:

cinema OR film* OR movie*

fascism OR fascist* OR hitler OR Mussolini

italy OR Germany

Notice that the default search option "Any field" was changed to switch to "Subject". Subject makes the search more focussed. You can keep the default if you like.

Also notice OR is in capitals; *for truncation. A third row was added by clicking on "Add a new line"

There are about 450 results. To limit to books and online – use your FACET limits on the left hand side. This will focus your results even more.

Next Steps. Review your list of results. Check for online availability. If you needed articles but are not happy with the results, there might be a reason why. One big reason might be that while Omni searches a lot of databases, it does not search them all.

Examples of databases not searched by Omni:

Fine Arts

- Art & Architecture Source
- Music Index

Humanities

- Historical Abstracts
- MLA Bibliography

Social Sciences

- Anthropology Plus
- Women's Studies International

Health & Sciences

- CINAHL
- SciFinder

Going back to our sample topic, to find all available history databases, click on "research guides". Click on the "Subject" tab. Click on "History". And then "Historical Abstracts".

In Historical Abstracts, the same search strategy can be used. Limiting to English Language is helpful in this case. 176 records are retrieved. Not all are available online, so look for the HTML or PDF full-text icons. If you are stuck, have questions, or need some guidance, please check out all the ways to get help! The link is available on the main page of the library website.

Good luck with your research!