Culinary Arts

This is a brief guide to starting research in culinary arts. Visit the library and the library web page to find out about additional resources.

Select an Area of Interest
Begin by defining your goals for the project; make sure to take your assignment and timeline into account. Browse in the library to see what kinds of resources are readily available to you.

Visit the Shelves
Looking at the library shelves may give you an idea. In general, books on culinary arts will be found in these areas. Subject searches in the library catalog will return more information.
- TX 349 – 651: nutrition; food and society; food science
- TX 652 – 840: cookbooks
- TX 910 – 951: food business

Current News and Research
Look through journals, magazines, and newspapers on your subject to find out if a current issue interests you. The following relevant journals, magazines, and newspapers are in the library.
- Nutrition Today
- Restaurant Business Magazine
- Saveur

Find Background Information
After you have selected a topic, use these resources to find out more about your area of interest.

Reference Books
These books can help you to get an overview of the topic and can provide definitions of key terms and ideas that are important for your research.
- Culinary biographies: a dictionary of the world's great historic chefs, cookbook authors and collectors, farmers, gourmets, home economists, nutritionists, restaurateurs, philosophers, physicians, scientists, writers, and others who influenced the way we eat today: REF TX649.A1 C85 2006
- Larousse gastronomique: REF TX349 .L365 2001
- The Oxford companion to food: REF TX349 .D36 2006

Books and Media to Check Out
Search the library catalog to find books and media on your topic. Here are some useful subject terms:
- Cookery
- Caterers and catering
- Food service
- Quantity cookery
Get Specific
Ask yourself questions that will result in a narrow area, or thesis, to explore. Your thesis should be interesting to you, something that you can explore from many angles, and small enough to fit within the scope of the assignment. As you get specific ask yourself if you have found enough resources to support your thesis.

Ask a Librarian
As you develop your ideas, conduct research, and get more specific in your research process a librarian is an invaluable friend. The librarian will help you narrow the scope of your research, find resources, and develop a strategy that will work for you.

Research Your Topic
Ask yourself what you need to know in order to answer your thesis question. Determine what you already know based on your background research, use that knowledge to dig deeper into your thesis area. The following resources are a great way to dig into your topic.

Find Specific Articles
After you have chosen a specific topic you can find articles that apply to your needs. Use online databases to search for articles on a specific topic. Each database has different articles in it; the following are databases that are useful for studying film reviews.
- Vocation and Career Collection
- ABI/INFORM Trade & Industry

Web Pages
The World Wide Web is a great place to find out more about your topic. When you use web pages in your assignment, be sure that the information that you use is current and correct. Remember that while search engines such as Google can connect you to a lot of information, some of it isn’t credible. The following web resources can help enhance your research.
- American Culinary Federation: http://www.acfchefs.org/
- Restaurants & Institutions: http://www.rimag.com/
- Food Safety: http://www.foodsafety.gov/
- Epicurious: http://www.epicurious.com/

Access Articles, Books, and Media Worldwide
Through the Interlibrary Loan Program the library can ask to borrow books and media from around the world. We can also request to have electronic copies of articles sent for you to use in your assignments. Identify articles, books and media that you would like to request and fill out the Article/Book/Media Request form on the library webpage.

Cite Your Sources
In college you must tell your audience when you use another person’s idea or words. Throughout your research you should note where you find the information that you are going to use in your final project so that you can tell the reader where you found your information. This is called citing the source. The attached citation guide will help you.