Research Basics @ Beeghly Library

Step 1: Selecting
- Pick a topic
- Find your topic's sweet spot!
- Not too broad...Not too narrow
- Learn what resources are scholarly vs. popular
- Your profs will be proud!
- Love the Web...Hate the Web
  - There's lots of stuff, but is it all good?
- Stop worrying and LEARN to LOVE the LIBRARY!

Step 2: Searching
- Brainstorm
  - Think of other words that describe your topic
- Query the library catalog
  - There are books for everything!
- Search a database for articles
  - Use those brainstormed words!
- Scour the Web for resources
  - Make sure to evaluate in Step 4!

Step 3: Retrieving
- Books
  - Organized by Library of Congress subjects
  - Stacks are split between the basement (A-G) and the 2nd floor (H-Z)
  - Reference books are split between the basement (A-K) and the 1st floor (L-Z)
  - We don’t have it! Use interlibrary loan!
- Articles
  - Full Text...just click!
  - Otherwise, check the AtoZ list to see if we have it in print or microfilm

Step 4: Evaluating
- See if it's a pile of CRAAP!
  - C = Currency (how recent is the info?)
  - R = Relevance (does it apply to your research?)
  - A = Authority (is the author reliable?)
  - A = Accuracy (is the information trustworthy?)
  - P = Purpose (why was it published?)
- Avoid PLAGIARISM...cite your sources!
  - Use MLA, APA, Chicago...ask your professor...
  - Failing to cite WILL come back to haunt you!