This guide focuses on library research tools that provide access to scholarly sources including books and journal articles on research methodology and methods in Gender Studies.

**Queen’s University Library Homepage**: [http://library.queensu.ca](http://library.queensu.ca)

**Connect from Off-Campus**: [http://proxy.queensu.ca/](http://proxy.queensu.ca/)


A selective guide to key information resources for Gender Studies, including:

- Article Indexes and Databases
- Research Methods

**Research Tool: Encyclopedias, Dictionaries, Handbooks**

Reference resources such as encyclopedias, dictionaries and handbooks are extremely useful for clarifying concepts, gaining a broad overview of a subject, and locating recommended further recommended readings. There are many handbooks, dictionaries and encyclopedias available on research methods in general and specific research methods. These are listed in both QCAT and Summon. The library also subscribes to a database that specializes in research methods:

**Sage Research Methods Online**

SAGE Research Methods Online (SRMO) is a research methods tool that links content and methods terms. It provides the most comprehensive picture available today of research methods (quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods) published by Sage across the social and behavioural sciences. Includes dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, books and book chapters, and journal articles.

**Research Tool: Library Catalogue (QCAT)**

Search the library catalogue (QCAT) to find materials such as books, chapters in books, and journals (but not individual journal articles) available, in print and online, at Queen’s University Library.

When searching for a topic, narrow the scope of your search by joining together your search terms (keywords) using special sets of predefined words, known as “Boolean operators.” Boolean operators are used to indicate the relationship(s) between words/concepts. They are: [and, or, not, “a phrase”]. In addition, there are special characters (such as “?” for truncating) that allow you to perform more sophisticated searches. Keyword search automatically places “and” between each word (for concepts that are phrases, use Boolean keyword).

To locate books on your topic, perform a keyword or a Boolean keyword search in QCAT. For example:

- autoethnography and women
- "intersectional analysis" and women
- "focus groups" and research
- "visual analysis" and research
Once you have located relevant books, use the subject headings assigned to the book(s) to locate further materials on your subject.

The subject heading in QCAT for books on conducting research is research - methodology. The following subject headings are useful to note:

- women - research - methodology
- feminism - research - methodology
- women's studies - methodology
- social sciences - research - methodology

**Research Tool: Summon**

Search across the library catalogue and many electronic resources, from a single search box. Summon contains everything found in the traditional QCAT Library Catalogue, plus millions of full-text articles available from the Library. Use the facets (subject, format, etc.) available within Summon to narrow down your search results.

**Research Tool: Article Indexes and Databases**

To locate scholarly journal articles on research methods in Gender Studies, consult either a Gender Studies database or a multidisciplinary database.

**Gender Studies Database:** [http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/3186](http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/3186)

Combines Women's Studies International database with the Men's Studies database. Indexes scholarly and popular journals covering gender-engaged scholarship. Publication coverage is from 1972 to present.

**Academic Search Complete** [http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/3404](http://library.queensu.ca/research/databases/record/3404)

A multidisciplinary index (with abstracts) to more than 10,900 publications including peer-reviewed journals, popular magazines, conference proceedings, monographs and reports.

**Strategies for Effective Database Searching:**

- Start your search with the obvious keywords or search terms. Also think of synonyms, alternate spellings, other terms or phrases to express the same concepts.
- Each database has different syntax requirements. Consult the “Help” or “Search Tips” section to get the most out of your searches.
- Most research databases have direct links to full-text if we subscribe to the journal. Use Getit@Queens to follow links to the full text of the article (if it’s in a different database) or to check QCAT (library catalogue) to see if the library has a print subscription to the journal which contains the article. Print, save or email your search results and articles.