From the main screen of SIRS, click on the **SIRS Issues Researcher** link.

**Knowledge Source** Comprehensive Search Portal

- **Subject Headings**
- **Keyword/Natural Language**

**SIRS® Issues Researcher**
Covering the Leading Issues most studied and debated by students.

**SIRS® Renaissance**
Current Perspectives on the Arts & Humanities

**Spotlight on National Safety Month**
Exploring national safety issues in homes, communities and roads.
This tutorial will provide an overview of the following features available through SIRS Issues Researcher:

1. Leading Issues
2. Search Tabs
3. Reference Bar
4. Database Features

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
1. **Leading Issues** are updated daily with new content. They can be accessed a number of ways using tabs on the menu bar.
Your Top 10 are 10 leading issues driven by end-user searches and the list is updated on a daily basis.
The **A-Z List** is an alphabetical list of more than 300 available issues, with more coming online bi-monthly.

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- Abortion
- Abortion, Moral and Ethical Aspects
- Abstinence
- Abstinence and AIDS Prevention
- Abstinence Education
- Access to Contraception
- Acculturation and Assimilation
- Adoption
- Advertising
- Advertising and Children
- Advertising in Schools
- Affirmative Action
- AIDS
- AIDS in Africa
- Alcohol Use
- Alcoholism
- Alternative Education
- Alternative Energy Sources
- Alternative Medicine
- Animal Cloning
- Animal Cruelty
- Animal Experimentation
- Animal Rights
- Anonymous Egg and Sperm Donation
- Anorexia
- Democracy
- Discrimination in Criminal Justice Administration
- Divorce
- Domestic Terrorism
- Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
- Doping in Sports
- Downloading
- Drilling for Oil
- Drug Control
- Drug Legalization
- Drug Testing
- Drunk Driving
- Eating Disorders
- Economic Policy, U.S. Education Policy
- Educational Tests and Measurements
- Election Issues
- Electoral College
- Emergency Contraception
- Endangered Species
- Energy Dependency
- Environmentalism
- Ethics and Criminal Behavior
- Ethnic Relations
- Human Trafficking
- Hunting
- Identity Cards
- Identity Theft
- Illegal Immigration
- Immigration
- Interfaith Movement
- International Adoption
- International Monetary Fund
- International Space Station
- International Trade
- International War on Drugs
- Internet Censorship
- Internet Gambling
- Intermittent
- Interracial Adoption
- Iraq War
- Islamic Fundamentalism
- Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Jobs for Immigrants
- Journalism and School Censorship
- Jury System
- Juvenile Delinquency
- Life on Other Planets
- Lobbying
- Local Food Movement
- Renewable Energy
- Reporters and Shield Laws
- Right of Privacy
- Rights of Non-Mainstream Religions
- Same-Sex Marriage
- School Discipline and Corporal Punishment
- School Prayer
- School Safety
- School Shootings
- School Uniforms
- School Vouchers
- Second Amendment and Right to Bear Arms
- Sex Education
- Single Parents
- Single-Sex Schools/Classrooms
- Smokeless Tobacco
- Smoking
- Smoking Bans
- Social Security Reform
- Solar Energy
- Sovereignty
- Space Exploration & Travel
- Space Missions
- Space Vehicles

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
The Groups tab organizes issues under 6 major subjects: Civil Rights and Liberties; Drugs, Health and Wellness; Economics, Business and Law; Environment and Science; School, Family and Youth; and Society and World Politics.
The **Visual Browse** allows you to visualize your search and narrow down a broad topic. You start by selecting one of six main categories, then continue to select sub-categories to arrive at related leading issues.
In this example of Visual Browse, the category School, Family and Youth was selected, followed by the sub-category Education Policy. The related leading issues are displayed below.
2. SIRS Issues Researcher offers a number of Search tabs.

You can use the Issues Researcher search bar which appears when the database opens. Using the search bar, you can perform a Subject Headings search if you are familiar with Library of Congress Subject Headings or you can select Keyword/Natural Language to perform a keyword search.

You can search All content or you can limit your search to Images, Maps, News, or Pro/Con issues by clicking on the appropriate tab.

Searches can be sorted by relevance or by date.
You can also click the **Quick Search** tab to perform a quick search. Please note, Quick Search is very similar to the Issues Researcher search bar. The only difference being that with Quick Search, you can simultaneously search SIRS Renaissance, an Arts & Humanities database collection. The Quick Search tab additionally allows you to sort your search results by Lexile. Lexile score is the numeric representation of an individual’s reading ability or a text’s readability (or difficulty).

Here is what the **Quick Search** screen looks like.
Advanced Search enables searching of multiple fields including Title, Author, Subject, and Graphic Title. In addition, Advanced Search enables proximity searching so you can find words which are in close proximity to one another within the full-text article.

Here is where you can search the Full Text of articles or you can search by Title, Author, or Subject.
Proximity Search is useful for finding one word in proximity to another word. For instance, if you typed in “National” for the first term within “5” words of “bank” as the second term, results are more likely to be about a National Bank than a bank of a river in a national park.

Results can be sorted by relevance, date, or Lexile. You can even select a range of Lexile by typing in the lowest score in the first box and the highest score in the second.

The Graphic Title search is useful for finding images and graphics. For instance, you could type in “global warming” to retrieve graphics associated with your search term.
**Topic Browse** is useful when you want to search for a possible research topic or to narrow down a general topic to a more specific area.

Select the **Topic Browse** tab and then select the topic you wish to browse.

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
After selecting a topic, you may choose to browse the Contents or Subject Index for your subtopic of interest.

Choose Contents if you would like to see all content for that general subtopic.

Choose Subject Index if you would like to narrow your topic down even further.

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
If you click on Contents, SIRS Issues Researcher will bring up all articles related to the subtopic. You may limit your search to specific formats by clicking one of the tabs: Newspapers, Magazines, Reference, or Graphics.

You can choose to Show or Hide Details about each article. Results can be sorted by Date or Lexile.

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
The **Subject Index** option allows you to choose more specific subtopics. You can select more than one subtopic by checking the box next to each one, then scrolling to the bottom of the page and clicking **View Checked Subjects**.
After selecting your options under the **Subject Index** search, you can **Narrow your results** by format (Newspapers, Magazines, Graphics). You also can **Sort results by Date** or **Lexile Score**.

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**Summary:** 
President Obama urged the nation Tuesday (June 15, 2010) to rally behind legislation that would begin changing the way the country consumes and generates energy, saying the expanding oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is “the most painful and powerful reminder yet that the time to embrace a clean energy future is now.” In his first Oval Office address, Obama compared the need to end the country’s “addiction to fossil fuels” to its emergency preparations for World War II and the mission to the moon. Hours after the government sharply increased its estimate of how much oil is flowing into the Gulf, the president warned that risks will continue to rise because “we’re running out of places to drill on land and in shallow water.” (Washington Post) This article reports on President Obama’s first Oval Office address to the nation, detailing the need for America to move compellingly towards a clean and alternative energy industry in light of the BP oil spill.

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**Obama Presses For Action on Energy Bill; Washington Post**
Washington, DC, Wilson, Scott
Jun 15, 2010  |  pg.A.1  |  Lexile Score 1490  |  Size: 9k

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**See also:**
- Oil pollution of the sea
- Pollution
- Oil pollution

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**Sort results by**
- Date

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**Narrow your results**
- All source types (34 results)
  - Newspapers (27 results)
  - Magazines (6 results)
  - Graphics/Media (21 results)
3. The Reference Bar features **My List, Dictionary, Thesaurus,** and **Toolbox features.**
My List has a drop-down menu which allows you to access your Search History or conduct a Session Save. You can also click on My List to access your tagged articles, graphics, and notes.

From the My List page you can Select All articles and E-mail the citations or Create/Print Bibliography of the article citations. Please note, citations can only be generated in MLA format.
If you are reading an article and come across an unfamiliar term, the Dictionary and Thesaurus tools may come in handy. Powered by Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary and Thesaurus, these research tools assist users in defining words and checking spelling.

Just click on the appropriate tab in the Reference bar and enter your search term, or copy and paste the term directly from an article into the search box.
The Toolbox features a number of helpful resources for conducting research and navigating through SIRS Issues Researcher.

The bulleted list contains Word documents which you can download and save to your computer. There are documents on critical thinking, writing a research paper, conducting a debate, and citing sources.

These resources can help you with navigating through SIRS Issues Researcher. There are tips on searching, a tutorial, and a help system.

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
4. **Database Features** are accessible via the main page of SIRS Issues Researcher in the navigation bar to the right or from the search tab menu.
That’s Debatable is an online poll highlighting a specific social issue and includes links to Articles to help create an informed vote. This feature is updated monthly and features the most commonly accessed issues in the database.

You can participate in the polls by choosing your answer and clicking Vote! You can also access results from previous polls by clicking on Archive.
Today’s News features the top national and global headline news stories which are constantly updated to bring you up to the minute breaking news.

Today’s News
The top national and global headline news stories are dynamically updated to bring you the breaking news of the day.

News Stories and Images

Sen. Robert Byrd dies at 92
Date: 2010/06/28  |  Time: 2:46 PM  |  Media: Text

Court strikes down part of Sarbanes-Oxley law
Date: 2010/06/28  |  Time: 2:45 PM  |  Media: Text

Senate Republicans react to Supreme Court pick Kagan
Date: 2010/06/28  |  Time: 2:30 PM  |  Media: Text

Supreme Court rules against Christian group that bars gays
Date: 2010/06/28  |  Time: 2:06 PM  |  Media: Text

U.S.: Chechen siding was not international terrorism
Date: 2010/06/28  |  Time: 1:52 PM  |  Media: Text

Kagan appears over her own shoulder on a video monitor during her Senate
Date: 2010/06/28  |  Time: 1:35 PM  |  Media: Image

File photo shows Sen. Byrd stepping his hat to reporters as he arrives at the
Date: 2010/06/28  |  Time: 1:31 PM  |  Media: Image

You can select videos from the Video menu on the left or News Stories and Images from the menu on the right.

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
Focus on Terrorism covers every aspect of the current crisis, providing a global perspective on the terrorism issue affecting the United States.

Select an area of the map to pull up key issues, key figures, and articles related to terrorism in the selected region.

Top Stories can be found here.

Multimedia Features can be found here including PDFs, videos, interactive timelines, and more.

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
Natural Disasters features coverage of Natural Disasters in the News, Disaster Preparedness, Relief, and Recovery, Economic Impact, and Scientific and Historical Background related to hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.
Spotlight On... provides monthly resources and tools exploring social and timely topics and events.

**Spotlight on National Safety Month**

The National Safety Council, established in 1913, is an organization devoted to saving lives and preventing injuries at home, in workplaces, in communities and on the roads. Each June, the National Safety Council sponsors National Safety Month, in which a key safety issue is highlighted each week. In 2010, safety themes of National Safety Month include prescription drug overdose, teen driving, overexertion, using a cell phone while driving, and summer safety. Learn more about these and other safety concerns in such articles and Web sites as:

- **National Standards Sought for Teen Drivers**
  USA TODAY, May 4, 2010; Lexile Score: 1240, 11K; SIRS Researcher

- **Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood Joins Oprah for "No Phone Zone Day" to End Distracted Driving**
  U.S. Department of Transportation News, Apr 30, 2010; Lexile Score: 1490, 6K; SIRS Government Reporter

- **Makers Are Pushing Back on Toxic-Toy Law**
  Wall Street Journal, Mar 5, 2009; Lexile Score: 1440, 8K; SIRS Researcher

- **A Pill Problem**
  State Legislatures, Mar 2010; Lexile Score: 1360, 19K; SIRS Researcher

- **The Informed Patient: Catching Deadly Drug Mistakes**
  Wall Street Journal, Jan 18, 2010; Lexile Score: 1590, 10K; SIRS Researcher

- **Despite Risks, Internet Creeps Onto Dashboard**
  New York Times (New York, NY), Jan 7, 2010; Lexile Score: 1320, 9K; SIRS Researcher

- **Texting While Driving: The New Drunk Driving**

The monthly topic features an image, summary, related articles, and an interactive quiz.

Need help? Contact your local librarian.
Curriculum Pathfinders provides resources for curriculum support and homework help in all subjects.

Access the subject you would like further information on by clicking the fields at the top. Links to My Courses, Research Ideas, and interactive media pieces appear.
World Almanac & Maps contains excerpts from the World Almanac and Book of Facts and provide over 500 detailed, printable maps from around the world.

World Almanac excerpts cover important facts describing the major international organizations, nations of the world, each of the United States and world history.