Use the resources listed in the SPUR course guide and on the Lippincott Library website to complete the below prompts. Please make note of any challenges or difficulties that you faced so that we may discuss them during our session. Do not spend more than an hour on these exercises.

For the purposes of this session, we expect you to have a basic familiarity with library research, including Franklin, the library catalog, and basic database searches.

**Identifying your research topic**

Watch the video on developing a research question in the course guide. Write down your initial research topic here:

________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

**Finding and evaluating sources – what kind of information do I need to answer my research question?**

**Finding books:** Use Franklin, the library catalog, to find a book on your subject in the libraries. Find the book in the library stacks and bring it with you to the library session on June 8th.

Book title / Author(s):

Call number / library location:

**Boolean searching in databases:** Watch the video on Boolean searching in the course guide, and use Boolean operators to construct an initial search string for your topic. Write your search string here:

________________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Watch the videos on Scholarly vs. Popular sources, and Evaluating Resources for Academic Quality, and then try using this search string to search for scholarly articles on your research topic in a subject-specific database.

Subject-specific database:

Article title:

Article author(s):

Journal title and issue:

Why do you think that this article or book is useful for your topic? How might this resource help you to define your research question?

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Now that you have looked at some potential resources for your research question, do you feel that your topic is too broad? Too narrow?