Searching as Strategic Exploration

Realize that information sources vary in content, format, and relevance to your needs, depending on the nature of your search and the scope of your research. Be flexible and understand that your first attempts at searching are just the starting point. Keep asking questions!

What questions are you asking to direct your information search?

What is the scope of your research?

Who might produce this information? (e.g. scholars, organizations, governments)

What type(s) of information do you need?

Searching for information is often nonlinear and iterative, requiring the evaluation of a range of information sources and the mental flexibility to pursue alternate avenues as new understanding develops. (ACRL Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education, 2015)