

SIRS Researcher®

Quick Start Guide

About SIRS Researcher®

SIRS Researcher® is a general reference database containing thousands of full-text articles exploring social, scientific, health, historic, business, economic, political and global issues. Articles and graphics are selected from over 1,600 domestic and international publications and are indexed primarily according to Library of Congress-derived subject headings.

Part 1: Navigating the Interface

The screenshot shows the SIRS Researcher homepage. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Home, Back, My Research, and Educators' Resources. Below these are search options: Quick Search, Advanced Search, Topic Browse, Database Features, and Interactive Citizenship. A search bar is present with a dropdown menu for search methods: All, Images, Maps, News, Pro/Con, and Subject Headings. The main content area features a 'LEADING ISSUES' section with a scrollable list of topics such as Abortion, Adoption, Affirmative action, AIDS (Disease), Alcoholism, Alternative education, Animal experimentation, Assisted suicide, Bioethics, Birth control, Business ethics, Campaign finance, Capital punishment, Censorship, Cheating (education), Child abuse, Child labor, Church and state, Civil rights, and Cloning. To the right of this list is a 'YOUR 'TOP 10'' section titled 'PRO vs. CON' with a grid of 10 topics: Same-sex marriage, Capital punishment, Abortion, Doping in sports, Cloning, Eating disorders, Teenage pregnancy, Child abuse, and Gun control. On the far right, there is a 'Help Topics & Reference Bar' with links to Help, How to Cite, Dictionary, and Thesaurus, and a 'Database Features -- Significant information in several content areas' section with links to That's Debatable!, Today's News, Focus on Terrorism, Spotlight on..., Challenge Quest, World Almanac & Maps, and Browse Topics (Business, Environment, Family, Global Issues, Health, Human Relations, Institutions, Science).

Search Tabs

New Targeted Search

All Leading Issues -- Allows students to build critical thinking skills

Your 'TOP 10' -- Updated monthly based on end-user searches

Help Topics & Reference Bar

Database Features -- Significant information in several content areas

Search Tabs allow access to the three search methods, including Quick Search, Advanced Search and Topic Browse, a listing of Database Features, as well as the SIRS Interactive Citizenship series (if licensed).

Help Topics are grouped to be easily accessible from anywhere in the database.

- [Help](#) launches context-sensitive help.
- [How to Cite](#) details how to cite articles and Internet sites retrieved from SIRS Researcher.
- [Dictionary & Thesaurus](#) assists users in defining words, checking spelling, choosing the perfect word and more.

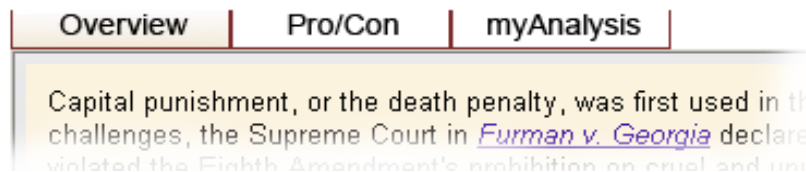
The top **Reference Bar** provides links to functional and reference aids.

- [Home](#) returns to the portal page.
- [Back](#) returns to the previously viewed page.
- [My Research](#) includes:
 - o [Tagged List](#) displays articles added to the list by selecting the tag icon.
 - o [Search History](#) contains a list of all searches performed during a session and provides links to return to the search results.
 - o [Session Save](#) provides the ability to save your search history and tagged list by keying in a user name and password.

- [Educators' Resources](#) formerly known as Librarian's Corner, compiles a collection of materials designed to help librarians and library patrons.
- [Toolbox](#) provides a single point of access to all reference materials.
- [Log-out](#) ends the user session, clearing the search history and tagged list for the next user.

Leading Issues

SIRS Leading Issues feature is dynamically updated daily with new content! New topics are added along with "Your Top 10 Choices" -- a list that is solely driven by end-user searches and is updated monthly. Best of all, the new Pro/Con and myAnalysis tabs make exploring the opposing viewpoints of our time easier.



Database Features



[That's Debatable](#) - This brand new feature allows students to vote in an online poll and become vested in the research process.



[Today's News](#) - The top national and global headline news stories are dynamically updated to bring you up-to-the-minute breaking news.



[Focus on Terrorism](#) - Covers every aspect of the current crisis, providing a global perspective on the terrorism issue.



[Spotlight of the Month](#) - Articles selected as a sampling from the SIRS Researcher database to encourage research and awareness of the topical issues.



[Challenge Quest](#) - A list of Pathfinders linked to recently added content and hot topics to encourage research and further exploration into the topics covered by SIRS Researcher.



[World Almanac & Maps](#) - Hundreds of detailed, colorful current and historic maps are available as an online reference almanac. Articles about world history, profiles of all the nations of the world, and other important facts are also found within this section.



[Browse Topics](#) - Use to locate results by exploring topics and subtopics in a multilevel tree.

Part 2: Search Methods

Targeted Search: Simply click the new Images search link at the top of the main search page and find any of tens of thousands of photographs, charts and maps to simply copy and paste into reports, presentations and more.

Subject Headings Search: Subject Headings Search is useful when you have a specific research topic in mind and you want to use a subject index to quickly locate articles related to that particular topic.

Keyword Search: Keyword Search is useful when you want to locate articles based on your own combination of key words and phrases.

Topic Browse: Use to locate results by exploring topics and subtopics in a multilevel tree.

Part 3: Analyzing Your Results





The numbers of results returned for each source type may list up to 1000+ results. Selecting the corresponding link may further narrow search results to: Newspapers, Magazines and References.

You searched for: [Search](#) 

434 All Articles	221 Newspapers	178 Magazines	1 Reference	100 Graphics
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Details: [Show](#) | [Hide](#)


Sort: [Relevance](#) | [Date](#) | [Lexile](#) 












Legend:  Source  Summary  Descriptors  Graphics

Check items and select "Update Tagged List" below.

- [The President's Council on Bioethics: Human Cloning and Human...](#)   
President's Council on Bioethics July 2002; Lexile Score: 1390; 48K, SIRS Researcher
- [Bad Copies: How Popular Media Represent Cloning As an Ethical Problem](#)   
Hastings Center Report March/April 1998; Lexile Score: 1360; 39K, SIRS Researcher
- [Cloning Humans](#)   
Free Inquiry Summer 1997; Lexile Score: 1190; 49K, SIRS Researcher

Part 4: Working Within the Full-Text Document

The full-text article is accessed by clicking the **article title**. The article display page lists the source, date, page number(s), article title and author. In addition, any search term(s) used to locate the article are bolded within the text. The [1st Keyword](#) link scrolls the page to the first occurrence of such a key word. The arrow  indicators scroll the page to either the previous or next key word instances. In addition, the following features are available:

 Results List	Results List returns to the previous search results list.
 Tag	Tag adds the article or document to your Tagged list enabling you to e-mail, save, or create a bibliography.
 E-mail	E-mail sends the full text, source, summary and,/or graphics to your personal e-mail address.
 Clean Copy for Printing	Clean Copy for Printing loads a printer-friendly version of the article text, removing all keyword indicators and, inline graphics.
 Source	Source loads the article source.
 Summary	Summary loads the article summary.
 Descriptors	Descriptors loads a list of words which describe the subject matter and, link to related resources.
 Graphics	Graphics loads accompanying graphics or graphics list.
 Printable PDF	Printable PDF loads a printable version in Adobe's Portable Document Format.
 Bookmark	Bookmark creates a shortcut to a clean copy of the article text and, saves it in Internet Explorer's Favorites list for up to 60 days.
 Top	Top scrolls the window to the top of the page.