This guide is designed to assist you in finding research-based resources for your group project. Approaching these and other resources with a clear question will help you sift through the available resources, and focus on those that will be most useful to you. This guide focuses primarily on two sources: Ebscohost, for research articles, and governmental and non-governmental Internet websites. Public Agenda is an excellent starting point for most topics.

1. **Ebscohost**: Confine your search to the Academic Search Elite and ERIC databases. Check Full-text and Peer-reviewed boxes. In addition to your major topic (like poverty), you should search with at least one other variable (like gender, children, race or ethnicity, work or welfare). Your group brainstorming should help you to generate several possible keywords for your search. A good tip is to conduct an initial search and find one article that seems to address the main issues that interest you. Read that article to identify the keywords that are used by researchers in the field. Using those keywords (which may also be indicated in the top section of the article, after the reference information) to further refine your search. Remember that you can copy and paste the whole article, reference information, or quotes from Ebscohost articles directly to a Word document. Be sure to always add quotation marks to any direct quote you lift from the article, to avoid plagiarism in your paper.

2. **Internet**: It’s a good idea to search on the Internet after you have searched Ebscohost. Ebscohost’s sources are more focused, making it easier to refine your keyword search and get an idea about what Internet sources are going to be most useful to you. In general, websites that will be the most useful will be the .edu, .org, and .gov sites.

3. **Public Agenda**: The organization Public Agenda compiles extensive information on public issues and organizes public deliberations around the country. Their website ([http://www.publicagenda.org](http://www.publicagenda.org)) is a great place to start for the following issues: Poverty and Welfare, the Economy, Education, Childcare, Illegal Drugs, Immigration, the Family, and Healthcare. Click on Issues, and then the specific issue you wish to research. You will find extensive resources organized under “Understanding the Issue,” “Facts and Figures,” and “Public Opinion.” The Resources section will include organizations that conduct research, education, and advocacy on the issues, as well as direct links to research reports.

4. **Commission on Children, Families, and Community**: Multnomah County’s Commission on Children, Families, and Community has a host of resources, including a plan that relates to most of the topics you are examining. You can view and/or download the data and plans relevant to your topic from ([http://www.ourcommission.org/](http://www.ourcommission.org/)). Go to the Site Map to locate the Plan and other resources of interest.

5. **Internet Resources by Issue**: The following is a list of some useful websites organized under the major social problems you are investigating. These are not comprehensive, but are good places to start. Always check out the Site Map and explore the Links or Related Resources to further extend your search.
Education and Children’s Welfare

Children’s Welfare
http://www.childrensdefense.org/ is the web site of the Children’s Defense Fund, which has lots of statistics, research, and programs, as well as links to other sites. http://www.aecf.org, the website of the Anne E. Casey Foundation, publishes regular reports on child well being and has many links.

Education:
The Educational Trust (http://www.edtrust.org) focuses on K-12 and college programs, equal opportunity, and making schools work particularly for minorities and the poor.
The Education Commission of the States (http://www.ecs.org)
National Dropout Prevention Center (http://www.dropoutprevention.org)
National Center for Education Statistics (http://nces.ed.gov)
American Association of University Women (http://www.aauw.org)
US Department of Education (http://www.ed.gov)
Oregon Department of Education (http://www.ode.state.or.us) has information on school finance, staffing, class size, assessments, student behavior and performance (see especially the school report cards at http://reportcard.ode.state.or.us).
The Annie E. Casey Foundation (http://www.aecf.org) publishes national reports on child well being and compiles state, county, and city data on a variety of issues concerning children, families, and education.

Daycare/Childcare:
Check out pre-school, Head Start and Even Start programs through the ERIC database and the US Department of Education (http://www.ed.gov). Otherwise, use resources through Public Agenda, and suggested resources under Education.

Safe and Productive Neighborhoods

Domestic/Community Violence (also related to Children’s Welfare):
Family Violence Prevention Fund (http://www.fvpf.org)
Children’s Defense Fund (http://www.childrensdefense.org)
National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse (Prevent Child Abuse America (http://www.preventchildabuse.org)
Minnesota Center Against Violence and Abuse (MINCAVA). Find specific categories from their home page at http://www.mincava.umn.edu
http://www.jimhopper.com/abstats This is a site of a sociological study on the lasting effects of child abuse, especially in men. This site also indicates a number of related links, including, for example, Judith Herman’s book, Trauma and Recovery.
http://www.saferesociety.org/ provides some links on sexual abuse of children and women.
The International Planned Parenthood Federation website [http://www.ippf.org/imap/gbv2000.index.htm](http://www.ippf.org/imap/gbv2000.index.htm) includes this international statement against gender-based violence and how to prevent it. The site contains links to other sites.

**Crime and Criminal Justice System:**
Bureau of Justice Statistics ([http://ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs](http://ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs))
The Sentencing Project ([www.sentencingproject.org](http://www.sentencingproject.org))
The FBI ([www.fbi.gov](http://www.fbi.gov))
Amnesty International: ([www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org))
Human Rights Watch ([www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org)) Look under USA.

**Economic Prosperity**
**Hunger:**
Second Harvest ([http://www.secondharvest.org](http://www.secondharvest.org))
Hunger Free America ([http://www.hungerfreeamerica.org](http://www.hungerfreeamerica.org))
Center on Hunger and Poverty (Brandeis) ([http://www.centeronhunger.org](http://www.centeronhunger.org))

**Poverty, Welfare, and Inequality:**
Inequality.org ([http://www.inequality.org](http://www.inequality.org))
The Urban Institute ([http://www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org))
Institute for Women's Policy Research ([http://www.iwpr.org](http://www.iwpr.org))
National Coalition for the Homeless ([http://nch.ari.net](http://nch.ari.net))
The US Department of Labor ([www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov))
United for a Fair Economy ([www.ufenet.org](http://www.ufenet.org))
Check out State of Oregon resources, starting with [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov), including the Oregon Employment Department, the Department of Human Services (on food stamps and cash assistance) and the Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OHP). From the [www.oregon.gov](http://www.oregon.gov) site you can go directly to state departments, or search all Oregon websites using keywords.

**Health and Happiness**
The Oregon Health Department website ([http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us](http://www.ohd.hr.state.or.us)) has statistics, reports, and links on a variety of health issues.
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([http://www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)) can be searched on a variety of social, mental, and physical health issues.
Healthcare:
The National Institutes of Health (http://www.nih.org)
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (http://www.cdc.gov)
The Office of Minority Health Resource Center website (http://www.omhrc.gov)
has a number of publications and links to other sites related to minority health.
Oregon Health Division (http://ohd.hr.state.or.us) has extensive resources on
healthcare and healthcare issues in the state. You can also search all Oregon
websites through www.oregon.gov.

Democracy
http://www.opensecrets.org focuses on the influence of money in US politics.
http://www.democracynow.org is the Pacifica Radio/TV program that covers
many issues related to democratic participation, civil liberties, tolerance, and so on.
http://www.nlg.org is the website of the National Lawyer’s Guild. Several
Committees and other links from the site are relevant to democracy, including the
Center of Democratic Communications and the National Police Accountability
Project.
http://www.aclu.org (American Civil Liberties Union) covers many issues related
to civil rights and democratic participation.
http://www.bowlingalone.com (Website of the book and Robert Putnam)
http://bettertogether.org focuses on the social capital surveys.

The Dark Side of Social Capital
http://www.tolerance.org is a website of the Southern Poverty Law Center. Many
links and features on hate groups, hate crimes, and tolerance education.
http://www.aclu.org focuses on tolerance, free speech, immigrant and minority
rights, and so on.
http://www.nlg.org focuses on immigrant and minority rights,
lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender rights.
Metropolitan Human Rights Commission (of Portland)
(http://www.co.mutnomah.or.us/dss/budget/Nondepartmental/MHRCNar.htm)
features local groups promoting tolerance and minority rights.