

## **Handout 3-2: Tips for Conducting Literature Searches and Locating Community Assessment Resources**

- Do not wait until the last minute. Start now as part of your planning activities.
- Find authors whose work is cited most frequently. (These are the leaders in the field.)
- Review literature that has been published in the past 5 years and is considered to be major works.
- Try to find research that shows gaps in knowledge that your project addresses.
- Make sure you include literature on the cultural dimensions of the problems from cultural standpoints.
- Go to your local university or college (online if you are in an isolated area). Ask for free help, and solicit assistance from master's and doctoral degree candidates who are looking for course projects. Also, gain access to the libraries there.
- Meet with State and local health, mental health, and substance abuse offices to obtain State and local data collection reports.
- Don't reinvent the wheel; many searches have been done and can be purchased for your project.
- Assign a staff member or student the task of performing an ongoing literature search and collecting relevant materials for review.