From utilizing research guides, to sifting through congressional databases, to working the microfilm, Fondren Library was an invaluable resource in researching how regional domestic influences impacted Truman’s decision to recognize Israel.

The first step in my research was to gain an understanding of the historiography on my topic. Using OneSearch, I identified the most important arguments related to my thesis. I sifted through books and articles, reading abstracts, introductions, and conclusions to identify the most useful articles and books including those by John Snetsinger, Michael Cohen, Ian Bickerton, and Bruce Evensen.

An analysis of the existing historiography led me to conclude that while work had been done on the impact of domestic influences on Truman, there was a gap in the research regarding the impact of regional domestic influences. I decided to investigate regional influences through an analysis of primary sources including congressional records, regional newspapers, and public opinion polls.

My first stop was the Kelly Center for Government Information where I met with Linda Spiro, the Government Information Librarian. Together, we viewed the “History – Government Sources” research guide and I learned about a database which became integral to my research: ProQuest Congressional. Using ProQuest Congressional, I narrowed my search of congressional records to the years ranging from 1943 to 1948. An analysis of the congressional records yielded which states had the most outspoken congressional representatives and whether these representatives promoted a Zionist agenda. In addition, congressmen submitted newspaper articles regarding Palestine to the congressional record. Such articles allowed me to not only access a wider range of publications, but also analyze the relationship between congressmen and the press.
Anna Shparberg, the Humanities Librarian, introduced me to the newspapers research guide on the Fondren website. This guide pointed me to ProQuest Historical Newspapers where I was able to access publications including *The New York Times* and *The Christian Science Monitor* which provided me a window into the opinions prevalent in different regions of the country. The database also provided me access to *The Cleveland Call and Post*, an African American publication which gave me a unique perspective as to why African Americans were in favor of Zionism. *The Houston Chronicle*, however, is not digitized for the years leading up to 1948. The only way I could access this newspaper to gain a crucial window into the southern perspective was through Fondren’s microfilm collection available at the Kelly Center.

Other sources accessed at Fondren included *The Gallup Poll: Public Opinion, 1935-1971* and *The President and Public Opinion* by Manfred Landecker which provided me key speeches and interviews by Truman. In addition, many of my primary sources I located at the Truman Library were identified by perusing the bibliographies of articles and books at Fondren Library. Through my research, I was introduced to not only the volume of resources available for conducting original research, but also the incredibly knowledgeable librarians who helped me discover the resources Fondren has to offer.