

Sample Open-ended Questions

Where did you hear about _____?

Or, Please tell me more about you know about _____.

How do you hope to use what we can find about _____?

Or, Please tell me a bit about the work you are trying to accomplish so we can find the best resources to use to get there.

When do you need this information?

Or, If you would share your timeline with me, I can consider all the alternatives we have that will fit with that.

Where have you already found some information about _____?

Or, Please tell me where you have already located some information about _____.

Why do you think [that detail] of the information is important?

Or, Because you say that you need to find [information of certain date, by a certain publisher, etc.], I'd like to hear more about your reasons for that specification.

Who else has been able to suggest places for you to look for _____?

Or, If someone else has already started working with you on this, it would help me to know where they suggested you search as well as what you've already been able to locate.

What do you hope to find out about _____?

Or, Please tell me more about what you think you still need to resolve to complete your work on this matter.