

Biology 411 Library Resources Session

9/10/08

Diane Prorak, prorak@uidaho.edu

Library website: www.lib.uidaho.edu

Services and Help

- Reference Desk Help: Phone, email or in person. Check “Ask a Librarian.” Email me directly or make appointment using **Research Assistance Program**
- Barcode registration (for off campus use) and UI email required.
- **Interlibrary Loan (ILL)** for items we don't own. No charge. Set up account. Articles almost always come via an electronic link and you are notified when they are available (usually 2-3 days). You can use the ILL links in the ArticleLinker screens for easy ordering.
- **WSU Libraries catalog:** available through “Other Libraries” link. You can see what journals (and books) they own and go over there. You cannot use their electronic journals from here or remotely.

The UI Library Catalog

- Use search box on home page to search. Includes books, ebooks, DVDs, detailed information on print journals we own. You can often re-sort results list by date (to see newest first).
- Terms to add to narrow may include “political aspects”, “moral aspects”, “environmental aspects”, “legislation,” “popular works,” “United States.”
- Includes certain U.S. government documents, many recent ones online. Lists EISs that we own (can use in library).
- Check that the location says “UI Library” or “UI Library US Government Documents” because the catalog includes books from UI Law Library, NIC (North Idaho College) and LCSC (Lewiston). These can be ordered using the “request” link.
- Use “request” to recall books that are checked out or have them brought to the Circulation Desk.

Finding Articles: Some tips for and examples of helpful article databases

- Many different databases; use subject pulldowns to find, “Info” to see content summary and if there are limits on number of concurrent users. For interdisciplinary subjects, email me for help.
- Vendors and search interfaces: We buy access from different companies (vendors). Sometimes we have access to many databases from one company so the search interface is the same and you can cross search. If the vendor for two databases is different, you will have to do separate searches. Search interfaces differ greatly.
- General search tips: If results are not what you wanted, change terms (or combinations of terms) or databases.
- If you get too many results, try a) adding terms or b) limiting the fields your terms are found in (e.g. the word must be found in the title). You may need to use “advanced” search forms for that.

Article search tips Continued

- Some databases, like those from CSA, require that you put AND between terms to narrow your search. Most databases automatically put AND between words. If your results seem different than expected, check the help section for tips on how to combine terms.
- A wildcard (truncation) symbol stems a word so the search will include different endings. Commonly * is the truncation, but not always.
- Google Scholar – has ArticleLinker links, scattering of sources, not consistent, often good for interdisciplinary topics or when you can't find much elsewhere

Major Biological Sciences Index Databases, some include social sciences

These are primarily research databases that won't cover broad, popular topics.

Name	Features	Company/Vendor information
Agricola	Agriculture/Food Science index, , includes Forest Service and USDA publications, 1985 - present	2 versions: Ebsco easiest
BIOSIS Previews	Very comprehensive, 1969-present. Includes many article citations we don't own (order from ILL).	ISI, with Web of Science and Medline
CAB Direct	More focus on nutrition, wildlife, natural resources, and some social sciences but still includes broad range of topics. From UK – international focus. 1900 – present. Includes many article citations we don't own (order from ILL).	CAB – their own system and a little clunky to search
CSA Illumina (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts)	Many databases, only some are biological, but others cover physical, material and social sciences. Phrase searching is default. Dates of coverage vary, mostly 1980s to present. Includes Sociological Abstracts, a major index for sociology, an EIS database, a pollution database and Georef (geosciences).	CSA
Fish and Fisheries Worldwide	Includes gray literature, more applied, Fish and Wildlife publications, 1972 - present	Biblioline, can be searched with Wildlife database below
PubMed	Medline using NLM's own search system. 1965 – present. Very good search system, but can be searched with other databases through ISI.	NLM. Using link from the library's web page provides ArticleLinker help for results.
Web of Science (includes social sciences)	Huge database, not as thorough about subject words and abstracts as others, allows cited reference searching, 1955 – present. Includes many article citations we don't own (order from ILL).	ISI, with BIOSIS and Medline
Wildlife and Ecology Studies Worldwide	Includes gray literature, more applied, Fish and Wildlife publications, 1935 – present (for some)	Biblioline, can be searched with Fisheries database above

Major Full text databases

The journal databases are searchable alone, but you will also be linked to full text articles within them when you use ArticleLinker. Recommendation: Don't generally just search these full text databases (except for Environmental Health), but use the article indexes above.

Name	Features	Company/Vendor information
American Society for Microbiology	11 society journals, 1995- present	ASM
BioOne	Journals. Independent society publishers, 2000 – present	BioOne, also available through CSA
Elsevier Science Direct (aka ScienceDirect)	Large full text database, major publisher, many disciplines beyond science, 1997 – present. We don't have full text access to all listed.	Elsevier
Environmental Health and Toxicology databases	Current toxic chemical, hazardous waste, toxicology, human health data	NLM
JSTOR	Journals. Archives of many classic journals back to volume 1. No current issues. Browse list of journals to see biological sciences journals. More commonly used by social sciences.	JSTOR
SpringerLink	Journals. Publisher database for Springer, Kluwer journals, 1996 – present. We don't have full text access to all listed.	Springer
Synergy	Journals. Publisher database for Blackwell Science. We don't have full text access to all listed.	Blackwell

Magazine and Journal Title List:

Use this link when you have a specific journal or article you are looking for (you already have the citation). You can **search the JOURNAL TITLE** to see if we have access to it in print or online and see the years available. This is not the best way to find articles on a topic, but to see if the library owns a specific article you already know about.

(over)

Some databases/sites for finding general and media coverage

Name	Features	Company/Vendor
CQ Researcher	Weekly issues cover a current social/political/ethical topic. Limited number of topics.	CQ
EbscoSearch	Has access to a wide range of sources and subjects including popular and scholarly. For your uses, you would want to click on EbscoSearch, then click the tab "Choose databases" in order to see the full range of databases (many scholarly) that you can search at once. In some databases, there is a limit box you can check to narrow to scholarly journals, but it doesn't work perfectly (though it helps).	Ebsco
Cambridge Scientific Abstracts Discovery Guides	Provides background and resources for current issues, limited subjects covered http://www.csa.com/discoveryguides/discoveryguides-main.php	
Consumer Health databases	See the subject pulldown "Medicine." Try these databases as appropriate: AltHealthWatch (alternative medicine), Health & Wellness Resource Center, HealthSource: Consumer Edition	Ebsco and Thomson/Gale; can be searched with other databases
LexisNexis	Includes a wide range of html full text articles in newspapers, no graphics, mostly covers last 20 years	LexisNexis
National Academies Press publications	Some publications give a full overview of the scientific and social status of an issue. http://www.nationalacademies.org/publications/	
Opposing Viewpoints	Essays and articles representing differing viewpoints on popular topics.	Thomson/Gale, which also has many other general interest databases that can be searched simultaneously
Proquest Newspapers	Major newspapers including the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal	Proquest

Other Sites and Databases that might be useful

AAAS Press Room (American Association for the Advancement of Science)	News releases and information for media http://www.aaas.org/news/press_room/
Science.gov	Gateway to US government science information www.science.gov

