

Environmental Science 400

Library research session 10/01/07

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Library website: www.lib.uidaho.edu

Services and Help

- 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** 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.
- **WSU Libraries catalog:** available through “Other Libraries” link. Can see what journals they own and go over there. Cannot use their electronic journals from here or remotely.

Web page

- Library web page provides access to many subscription sources not available through Google or other web searches. However, if you use Google Scholar and get access to full text journal articles, it is usually because we have a subscription to it and it recognizes your UI connection.
- **Library catalog** (search box on main page): books, ebooks, DVDs, detailed information on print journals we own. Check that the location says “UI Library” or “UI Library US Government Documents” because the catalog includes books from NIC (North Idaho College), UI Law Library and LCSC (Lewiston). These can be ordered using the “request” link.
- **Find articles:** For finding articles on your research subject. Use this when you don’t know all the articles available and want to find more or when you heard about an article and don’t know the whole citation. Also includes some electronic reference sources (like Birds of North America and McGraw Hill Digital Engineering Library). Use “ArticleLinker” (icon or text) to determine if we have access to the article you need.
- Find Articles page breakdown: For more scholarly and peer reviewed articles, you will generally choose one of the indexes by using the “databases by subject” pulldown and choosing an index. Use “Info” icon for help. If you know an exact database, you can use the “databases by title” section.
- **ArticleLinker:** In a list of articles, you will generally see a link to “ArticleLinker” (icon, text or alternate text such as “Locate article”). Clicking on this links you to the electronic article or helps you to find out whether we have online or print access to the full text of the article you need.
- **Print journals** are on the 2nd floor of the library. Bound issues have a call number and current issues are shelved alphabetically by the title.
- **Magazine and Journal Title list:** Use when you have an exact journal article (citation already known) you want to look for or you want to browse

a journal you know about. Find the journal name in the article citation and use that as your starting place. Type in the journal name and view the links.

Some tips for and examples of helpful databases

- General search tips: If results are not what you wanted, change terms (or combinations of terms) or databases.
- Many different databases; use subject pulldowns to find, info to see content summary. 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- Cambridge Scientific Abstracts (CSA): many databases including Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management
- Web of Science: A source for searching a broad range of articles in the sciences, but, more uniquely, searching for articles that cite a particular article. Also covers social sciences.
- Full text databases from publishers: ScienceDirect, Synergy, SpringerLink, ASM journals, JSTOR etc. Useful for full text, but some are small and you are limited by publisher, leaving out other potentially useful articles. Indexes like Web of Science, Agricola, CSA, Avery try to cover whole disciplines.
- PubMed: If you use the link to PubMed from our library's web page, you will get ArticleLinker included.
- Environmental Health and Toxicology databases: toxic substance data, wide range of quality resources, mix of data and journal articles, from NIH