



## BIOL 12 – M. Williams

### ASK A LIBRARIAN

- In person at reference desk or by appointment during open hours
- By telephone: 530-879-4024
- Via email online
- Online chat 24 hours a day: [Ask-A-Librarian](#) link on every library page

### GETTING TO THE SCHOLARLY DATABASES

**Path: Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Combined databases → [choose a database]**

#### Off-Campus Access

1. You will be automatically prompted to enter a user name and password if you try to access the databases from off campus
2. Enter your username: this is your last name plus the first two letters of your first name – entered as one word without spaces, lowercase.  
3. Enter your password: this is last four digits of your student ID  
For example, Jane Smith with Student ID #9834765 would be:  
**smithja**  
**4765**
3. Click *Submit Query*.

### SEARCHING THE DATABASES FOR SCHOLARLY RESEARCH ARTICLES & SCIENTIFIC STUDIES

#### STEP 1: Picking the right database and setting limiters

**Path: Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Combined databases → [choose a database]**

#### EBSCOHost

- Use the check boxes to select *Academic Search Premier* and *Greenfile*
- Use the checkboxes in advanced search to limit to *Full-text* and *Scholarly (Peer-reviewed)*
- You can also limit by publication name if you know we own it (see **E-JOURNALS BY TITLE**, below)

#### JSTOR

- JSTOR is a scholarly archive. The articles in here are scholarly, but also are at least 3-5 years old.
- Click *Advanced Search*, located beneath the search box
- Limit your search using the following check boxes:
  - **INCLUDE ONLY CONTENT I CAN ACCESS**
  - **INCLUDE LINKS TO EXTERNAL CONTENT**
  - **NARROW BY → ITEM TYPE → ARTICLE**
- **JSTOR PLANT SCIENCE** is a great resource for images and primary documents on botany. The link is on the right side of the main search page (<http://plants.jstor.org/>).

#### ProQuest

- Use the checkboxes in advanced search to limit to *Full-text documents only* and to *Scholarly including peer-reviewed*
- You can also limit by publication name by looking up the publication name using the [Look up publications](#) link
- Exclude from results (using the following check boxes):
  - **BOOK REVIEWS**
  - **DISSERTATIONS**
  - **NEWSPAPERS**
- Sort results by Most relevant first, not Most recent

## STEP 2: Building your search terms

### Choosing the search terms and additional limiters

- Start with one or two keywords in your search, not a natural language sentence
- Use the construct (**research OR study**) to limit your results
- The more words you use in your search with AND, the fewer results you will get.  
Example: **research AND cact\* AND botany**
- The more words you use with OR, the more results you will get.  
Example: (**research OR study**) AND **cact\* AND (botany OR biology)**
- You can narrow your search by using the drop-down menu to limit to SUBJECT or ABSTRACT  
Hint: Any academic discipline or large geographic area is very likely going to be a subject term.
- You can broaden your search by limiting to TEXT (sometimes called DOCUMENT TEXT)
- You can also limit by date

### Phrase Searching

- Use “quotation marks” to retrieve multiple words denoting single concept. (e.g. “college students”). Searches for words as single term with no additional words between. Brings back that **exact** phrase.

### Truncation

- Use (\*) to retrieve all forms of root word (e.g. librar\* = library, libraries, librarian, librarians, librarianship). Especially useful for retrieving both singular and plural form of keywords

### Wildcard

- The wildcard is usually represented by a question mark ?
- To use the ? wildcard, enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?. The database finds all citations of that word with the ? replaced by a letter.
  - For example, type **ne?t = neat, nest or next**. You will not find **net** because the wildcard replaces a single character.

### Boolean Operators

Use Boolean Operators to narrow or broaden your keyword searches

**AND** – narrows a search

- searches only for articles containing both terms
- best used to retrieve more focused results

**OR** – broadens a search

- searches for articles containing either term (as well as articles containing both)
- best used for synonyms or close subjects (e.g., mushroom OR fungi)

**NOT** – narrows a search

- searches for first term, filtering out second
- best for eliminating ‘false hits’ that occur when words have multiple meanings (e.g., cowboys NOT football)
- Use NOT in the last row only...it excludes all words that come after the term, NOT

### Database features

- Each database is different in its subject headings and interface.
- Look for the PDF, full-text, or PDF full text link to open the article
- You can print, save, email, listen to, or download articles
- You can find out how to **cite** the articles
- Find an article perfect for your topic? Use the **suggested subject terms** located on the left, right, or bottom of the article to search further on that topic
- Some databases let you combine suggested subjects to create a new search from a relevant article.
- Use the **subject thesaurus** to look for the controlled index of terms used in that database for your keywords
- **Help menu**: Your best friend

## E-JOURNALS BY TITLE: HAVE THE NAME OF THE JOURNAL OR A CITATION? NEED FULL-TEXT?

If you have a specific science journal in mind, go to:

**Library Homepage → Search for Articles → E-journal Titles → FIND by title**

If we hold that journal, follow the links for **Academic Search Premier, Wilson** or **JSTOR** to browse the journal for ideas by clicking the links for each year and issue. NOTE: If you follow the **Proquest** link, you'll need to re-enter the name of the journal using the [Look up publications](#) link found under [More Search Options](#)

You can then search only within that journal. Build slowly while searching the journals, start with one or two terms, like **research AND cact\***. If you are already searching a specialized Biology or Botany journal, you won't need to use terms like: plant, botany, mycology, etc. For a general science journal, you will.

## BROWSING E-JOURNALS BY SUBJECT

Sometimes we own the journal you want and sometimes not. You may find other journals with your keywords (e.g., *mycology*) in the title or by a subject search of journals. By far the best way to search keywords or subjects is in the larger databases, and not at the journal level. But, if you would like to "see" and "flip through" our journal collections, you can still do this with E-Journals.

To do this as a subject search, go to:

**Library Homepage → Search for Articles → E-journal Titles**

Use the drop down menu below [Browse E-journals by subject](#) to select [Earth & Environmental Sciences](#) for the search box. Hit search, then click down to the subject you find of interest and browse the journals just like you would if they were sitting on the shelf.

## DOAJ: The Directory of Open Access Journals

- DOAJ has 75 international, multilingual, free journals in botany you can browse or search
- **Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Combined databases → DOAJ**
- Then, **Find Journals → Biology and Life Sciences → Biology → Botany**
- These are best searched from within the **E-Journals by title** feature of the library web page
- Always check with your instructor to see if a journal is acceptable for the assignment

## OTHER RESOURCES

**Interlibrary loan:** Request articles not held by us online or by visiting LB 211

**Google Scholar** at <http://scholar.google.com>: Our partnership allows Google Scholar to determine which electronic journals and papers in the results list are owned by Butte College Library, and then includes special links to articles from those sources when they're available. Look in the results list on the right for "**Get full-text@Butte CC**" or below the citation for "**Check resources@Butte.**"

To make these links appear, just access Google Scholar from any Butte College campus, and you'll automatically see the "...@Butte" links.

For off-campus access, follow these steps:

1. If you have cookies blocked, set your browser to accept cookies.
2. Click on "Scholar Preferences" to the right of the Google Scholar search box.
3. Type "Butte College" in the 'Library Links' section.
4. Check the box that now appears next to Butte College below Library Links.
5. Click "Save preferences."

Hint: You may also see a PDF link on the right side, sometimes these are free online, sometimes not.

**Meriam Library, CSU Chico, Journal titles by name:** <http://opac.csuchico.edu/search-S2>

## A FEW OF DR. WILLIAMS' SUGGESTED JOURNALS AVAILABLE AT BUTTE COLLEGE

- **American Journal of Botany** in Wilson OmniFile
- **American Scientist** in print, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor LB (Current plus 2 yr. back files)
- **Bioscience** in Wilson, ProQuest, and Academic Search Premier
- **American Scientist** in Wilson, ProQuest, and Academic Search Premier
- **Nature** in ProQuest