SEARCH STRATEGIES for EVERYONE

What is a Database?
A collection of electronic documents that may be full-text articles, full-text books, streaming videos/music, abstracts, and citations of information sources. These documents may or may not be text-searchable; items may be scans of physical documents or digitally input.

Databases are created by a variety of institutions with different needs and funding. This is why the interfaces & results are often different.
REMEmber: Research Takes Patience and Time.

CSU+, Link+ and BeachReach = Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

NEVER Pay $$ for an Article
Your tuition covers the loan or electronic delivery of almost any article, book, book chapter, DVD, music score, etc.

1. In the item’s OneSearch record, the View It or Get It in the Library have CSU+, Link+ and BeachReach links. Try the first link at the top of the list. If you don’t see the links, refresh the page or sign-out & in.

2. Selecting one of these links should auto-populate the ILL order form. If not, type in the information about the item. Fill out all the starred (*) required elements & whatever other info you have. This request goes to a real person.

3. Put the end of the current year (ex: 12/31/2019) for the “stop request” date. You will get an email when your items arrive.
   CSU+ & Link+, used for physical items like books and DVDs, takes 2-5 business days.
   BeachReach, used for all articles and book essays/chapters, takes 24-48 hours.
   BR Items arrive in your BeachReach account as PDFs. Use BR for books & DVDs when CSU+/Link+ are not offered.

What if our OneSearch “Everything” doesn’t list a book or article you found on the Web?
Fill out a blank BeachReach form:

https://csulb-illiad-oclc-org.csulb.idm.oclc.org/illiad/illiad.dll > Beach ID & PW

1. Fill out the blank BR form (*) requirements, plus as much information as you have.
2. Add in the Note section that you could not find a record for the item in OneSearch.

See your BeachReach items: after logon, see menu on left:
   ➤ View
   ➤ Outstanding Requests
   ➤ Electronically Received Items

csulb.edu/university-library/beachreach-faqs to see common questions.

I update this handout every semester. Let me know how I can improve it! Take the survey: csulb.libguides.com/engl_allmajors
1. **STEP ONE**  
Sign into the Library and start with the Databases

**Useful Databases for ALL Studies**
- **Academic Search Complete** = General & All Majors
- JSTOR = General & All Majors - not always current issues
- Project Muse = Humanities & Social Science, Some Science

**Can’t Think of a Topic?**
- Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- CQ Weekly & CQ Researcher
  *Info on what’s happening in the US Congress*

**Useful Subject Databases**
- ArtIndex/ArtStor
- Berg Fashion Library
- Business Source Premier
- Communication and Mass Media
- ERIC
- Global Newsstream
- GreenFILE
- IEEE Xplore
- MLA International Bibliography
  *Best Database for topics like “metaphor” and “character”*
- PsychArticles
- Pub Med@CSULB
- ScienceDirect & Web of Science
- SociINDEX
- SPORTDiscuss
- U.S. Data & Statistics
- USA.gov & Congress.gov
- Fine Arts
- Fashion
- Money / Business
- Communications
- Teaching/Education
- Newspapers
- Environment & Sustainability
- Engineering & Computer Science
- Literature & Art Criticism
- Psychology
- Medline & Life Sciences
- STEM studies
- Sociology
- Fitness, kinesiology, law
- National & Regional stats
- USA official; laws & regs

*Every major has a librarian.* We have Library Guides (libguides) to help you choose databases & search! Find the libguides you need:

- csulb.edu > Menu > Library > Research > Contact a Librarian > By Subject (> Literature)
- csulb.edu > Menu > Library > Research > Tools > Guides > By Owner (> Alexis Pavenick)

2. **STEP TWO**  
Start searching with words you know = **keywords**

**The Assignment:** Find articles about the topic of **food insecurity**.

*It’s OK to start with words from the topic or assignment question!*

**Try:**
- food insecurity
- food insecurity AND healthy eating
- quality of food
- (health OR nutrition) AND food insecurity
- food insecurity AND the United States
- food insecurity NOT the United States
- food insecurity OR food insufficiency OR food security issues OR hunger
- mental health OR mental illness OR mental disorder OR psychiatric illness

- **Try the topic in “quotes” if you want to keep a string of words together in your search:**
  “healthy eating” = I want to find these words together

- **Some helpful additional terms:**
  - effects of / effects on | awareness | aspects of | laws against
  - effects of food insecurity

- **Often the search box itself will give you suggestions as you type.**
  *Other people have tried these words before and the database remembers. These suggestions may or may not work. Write them down to try later!*

*Boolean Operators*
- George Boole, mathematician, suggested a form of logic where values are true or false. This works well for online searching.
- **AND** / **OR** / **NOT** are words we call “booleans” when we use them to limit our search results.
- See Step Four 4 to learn more!

*Search Box Savvy!*
- “Or” connections can be made all in one database search box.
- “And” connections tend to work better in separate database search boxes.
- In Google, putting words all together in either case is fine, but check-out:
  *google.com/advanced_search*
Search Strategies for Everyone

3 STEP THREE Use the Limiters/Filters (they are often on the Left-side of the results)

A) Begin with These Limiters/Filters

☐ Exclude Dissertations  ☑ Exclude Book Reviews
(These materials are not used in scholarly/college work)

B) Now, think about what you need & the time you have to allow for research.
Remember to schedule your studying so you have time to use Interlibrary Loan (CSU+, Link+ & BeachReach)
If CSULB does not have what you want digitally or in print, order it! See the front page of this handout for help.

C) Use these Limiters/Filters:

☑ Peer-Reviewed / (Scholarly) Articles or Journals
☑ Full-Text (get it as a PDF now)

"Full-Text" means PDFs are immediately available. But 7/10 articles are digitally available without this limiter.

Try this: De-Select Full-Text and Select "Get It at CSULB"
It may just take a few more clicks to get to your document!

LOOK! More Limiters/Filters! Usually located on the Left of a search page, but not always!

Subject look at the list of Subjects to see if any match your topic.
Make sure to select “see more”; see Step Four 📚 for details

Date Published limit per your instructor’s suggestion

Publication check for a specific journal title

Language choose English - unless you get approval for translation from your professor

Format limit to books, articles, magazines, newspapers, or whatever material you need

Geography location of the analysis/discussion. ex: United States

X-Out/release limiters/filters if you don’t get useful results. This will go back to the wider results.
Here are a few ways to explore information in a database:

**Boolean Search**

- **AND** = search words together
  - cloning AND sheep = looks for discussions on cloning that *do* talk about sheep
  - Pride and Prejudice AND irony = looks for discussions that talk about the novel *Pride and Prejudice* and its use of irony.

- **OR** = search similar words at the same time = retrieves articles that have one term OR the other
t  - cloning OR genetic engineering
  - irony OR satire

- **NOT** = exclude a term
  - cloning NOT sheep = looks for discussions about cloning that *do not* discuss sheep
  - Pride and Prejudice NOT Darcy = looks for articles about *P&P* that do not discuss Mr. Darcy

**Keywords**

- Common words you think of to search. You may also see keywords hyperlinked inside a record/result as “tags” or “author applied terms.” You may see as well that your Keywords are the same words as Subject Terms - that means you know your topic’s vocabulary!

**Subject Terms**

- Subject Terms, Subjects, Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH), General Area Subject Terms, Descriptors, Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) are all names we use to describe a “controlled vocabulary.” This is a list of words used by professionals in the field. They have a consistent, reliable definition in a database, and they help us retrieve results with specific content.

When you see a hyperlinked Subject Term in a database and select it, you can be confident that the articles or books you find connected to that Term substantially discuss the topic (the Subject). People and Periods of Time can be Subject Terms as well.

Databases often hyperlink Subject Terms, to connect you to many articles of similar content.

**Keyword**
- heart attack
- movies or films
- Lord Byron

**Subject Term**
- myocardial infarction
- motion pictures
- Byron, George Gordon Byron, Baron (1788-1824)

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*One great approach to searching databases is to search your keywords, find articles you like, and then look at the article’s Subject Terms. In this way you learn the vocabulary used by professionals in the field.*

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**“Apply related words”**

- Usually in Advanced Searches, choosing to search with “apply related words” will expand your search to include Subject Terms for topics similar to the one you’re searching.

**“Apply equivalent subjects”**

- Use * (an asterisk) to indicate you want variations of a word.
  - Ex: truncat* will locate texts that contain “truncation” and “truncated.”
  - Ex: environment* will locate texts that contain “environmentalist” and “environmentalism”

**Truncation**

**Thesaurus**

- A path to look up terms that have similar meaning to the term you are interested in.
  - Only some databases have a thesaurus.

**Format**

- Article, Book Article (chapter in a book / essay in a book), Book (print, or an eBook = digitally copied, *not necessarily* born digital.)

**Language**

- Typically for CSULB, we choose English, unless you have an arrangement with your instructor that your fluency and translation into English are acceptable. **Ask first!**
Bibliography Mining / Cross-Referencing

Bibliographies (also called Works Cited lists or References, depending on the citation style you're using), are wonderful sources themselves. You can “mine” or cross-reference one article’s citations to find other articles that share your interests in authors, works and specific topics.

Looking at bibliographies can drive your research in a variety of directions:

1) Granular = go deep into a subject to see the kind of fine details writers are exploring in their analysis
2) Wide = get an overview of the variety of ideas being discussed in relation to your topic
3) Reputability = see who the most notable and prolific authors are in your topic

These are the first paths of thoughtful, meaningful research.

Researching authors and their citations is also one method that can be applied to uncover Fake News, bogus websites and single-perspective thinking.

Metrics

“Metrics” inform us of how often and where an article was used. They can also connect us to articles that discuss similar subjects.

Impact Factor / Metrics

Most often used in STEM and social science, Impact Factor (how often an article has been used as a reference in another article) is not an easy scale to apply to literature and the humanities, so it is not used as often in those fields.

However, Google Scholar & PlumX Metrics (in our databases) allow you to see when an article has been cited in other material.

From this information you can learn how useful the article is, how often an author publishes, and the most common journals within which the topic gets published.

Metrics in Google Scholar

Cited by = Other articles that have used the article you are looking at as a reference. Typically, the higher the number, the more notable the source.

Related Articles = Articles that have similar themes and/or similar topic focus.

If you are interested in impact factors and the H-Index or G-Index of how often an author has published in relation to how often the author has been cited by others, you can look further at the following websites. (Be advised - these indices deal more with STEM and social science materials.)

Journal Citation Reports
Scopus Journal Metrics
Scimago Journal & Country Rank

If you find a title you like on the Web, copy it into OneSearch “Everything” search to see if we have access to it.

If we don’t have access to it, you can order it from our interlibrary loan services, CSU+, Link+ or BeachReach!

The Web-Based version of EndNote is Free

EndNote

eknote.com > login Use the Login page to Sign-Up. See How: csulb.libguides.com/EndNoteWeb

Citation managers, like EndNote, Zotero, Mendeley, RefWorks all help you collect and organize citations as you find them. EndNote is one of the most popular citation managers. Sometimes a record will offer auto-export to EndNote; sometimes the record exports a file you can upload to EndNote. Sometimes none of this works, and you have to put the info in manually. Your collection of citations stays on the Cloud, in EndNote, Zotero and Mendeley, even after graduation.
5 STEP FIVE

Find books, eBooks & DVDs, print & digital journal articles, and to look in many databases at once

OneSearch

cslb.edu > Menu > MyCSULB > Single Sign-On (SSO) > Beach ID & PW > Library Button > OneSearch Box

Books/eBooks & Media (CSULB) or Books & Media (CSULB)
This search looks at items we have in our library, such as physical books & eBooks, including essay collections & anthologies, DVDs, microfilm, and print journals. Use the filters/limiters on the Left to choose In the Library and Books to find our books on the shelves and ORCA - which also holds DVDs, microfilm and print journals (learn about ORCA below).

Books/eBooks & Media (all CSU) or Books & Media (all CSU)
Remember from the cover page of this handout, it takes 2-5 business days to get a book from another CSU location using the CSU+ interlibrary loan service. Link+ takes about that amount of time too!

Articles
Use if you only want your results to be articles from a journal or essays in a book.

Everything
Use to get a general overview of a topic, and to check if we have a title in our library
* If you find a title on the Web, type it in the Everything search to see if we have it!
* If we do not have the item, use Interlibrary Loan: CSU+, Link+ and BeachReach to order it.

Call Numbers on Books - Find Books on the Shelves, or request them from ORCA

You will know if a book is physically in the library if it has a call number and a location listed. The location will be one of the library floors or in the storage unit ORCA (Online Remote Collections Access). ORCA only takes 30 minutes to retrieve an item – Items are delivered to the Circulation Desk on the 1st floor. Check Out ALL books at Circulation.

Read Call Numbers as Rows

Read Call Numbers as Rows
Go to the floor that has the start letters (see screens near the stairs)

PR 351.3
A46
2001

Look for floor, and then the bookshelves that hold PR
Look for the PR 300 area, then look for PR 351
Then PR 351.3
Then PR 351.3 A
Then PR 351.3 A46
Then PR 351.3 A46 2001

PR 351.23 comes before PR 351.3
PR 351.3 A comes before PR 351.3 B

Select one of these areas to search from the OneSearch dropdown menu.

Use the Limiters/ Filters on the Left of the search box to narrow your results!

Find Journals - Find out if CSULB subscribes to a particular journal - online or in print!

Under the OneSearch Box, select the links: Advanced Search
Then at the top of the Advanced Search Screen, select Journal Search
Type in the name of the journal to see if we subscribe to it, what years and issues we have, and whether we have it digitally or in print. You can sometimes link to all the issues from this point.

Print Journals in ORCA

If we have a journal only in print, we typically will not order it for you via BeachReach unless there is an ADA need. Most of our print journals are stored in ORCA. When you find an article you want, make sure to write down the Volume & Issue numbers, so you can order the right item from ORCA. Example:

1. Article title found in OneSearch: “Who do exercise physiologists test best - athletes or themselves?”
2. Journal that holds the article, physically available and stored in ORCA: New Zealand Journal of Sports Medicine
3. Year, Volume, Issue, Pages of the journal that holds the article: 1991, v. 19 n. 1, p. 13-15
4. When I look at the ORCA links, I select the link that shows the year 1991, and Volume 19, Issue/Number 1

Selecting that link will ask ORCA to pull the correct box; then the library staff will pull my specific issue by hand.

Note! In the Database A-Z list, if you see the OneSearch Symbol next to a database title, it means this database’s articles have been 99% indexed (99% of the material in the database should be discoverable in OneSearch.) For 100% access to a database, skip OneSearch and go to the database directly through the A-Z list.

ORCA lives behind the Circulation Desk. You can see it working on the television screens near the Library’s Starbucks!
Google Scholar has not indexed all of CSULB’s database records. *Do not rely on Google Scholar to find every record our online library catalog & databases hold.*

However, there is a way to set-up and search Google Scholar to see many (not all) of the things we have. [sclor.google.com > Settings > Library Links](http://scholar.google.com)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type In:</th>
<th>California State University, Long Beach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select (Check Box):</td>
<td>Open World Cat &amp; Cal State LB</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can save these settings to your Google account, or you can repeat them each time.

Following the above instructions, articles that Google Scholar can find in CSULB will be noted on the side with **GetIt@CSULB**. Selecting this will take you to sign-in to our Library, like we did in Step One §.

No **GetIt@CSULB** link available for the article or book?

**Copy the title into our OneSearch “Everything” search** to see if we have access to it. (see Step Five §)

If we do not have the title in the Everything search, order it from CSU+, Link+ or BeachReach! (see Cover Page)

Why bother with the OneSearch Everything Search to locate a title you find on the Web?

*Why not use Google Scholar directly all the time?*

Google Scholar works on an automated algorithm that has been allowed access to our library records. The algorithm is fast, but we have millions of records, and we update them regularly. That means links get changed. **Searching our library directly is the best way to find what you have immediate access to as a CSULB student.**

Yet, once you are in the working world, you may not have access to all the databases, books and other materials you do while you’re at college. These items are very expensive and part of your tuition goes to them. **Knowing how to use Google Scholar can help you do research outside of college** - at which point you may indeed have to pay for articles. Not now.

**DO NOT PAY FOR ARTICLES while you are at CSULB! Use BeachReach for Articles!**

If there is an article you find on Google Scholar and our OneSearch does not have a record for it, fill out a blank BeachReach form (see Cover Page).
Searching Google Scholar

Google Scholar is an algorithm-based web search engine built by Google to try to discover all of the electronically available information about scholarly work that is out on the Web.

Google Scholar finds between 50 - 90% of scholarly items, depending on the report you read.

To learn more, you can Google this topic, starting with the phrase: how does google scholar...
You can also read their About Page: "Stand on the shoulders of giants." scholar.google.ca/intl/en/scholar/about.html

Tips for Google Scholar

**Keywords** are in Scholar are easy to search, but that does not mean more accurate searches.
Put in as many keywords as you like in the single search box. Use fewer words to get a bigger number of results.

**Limiters** in Google Scholar are limited:

- **Date**: You can narrow and sort by year.
- **Relevance** and **Related Articles** are the algorithm’s interpretation of what you might be most interested in -- in relation to your keywords.
  
  We don’t really don’t know how G. Scholar or Google float items to the top of a list except that in part, it has to do with how many other people have selected on that link - *in part*. The actual way it works is proprietary, meaning the method is owned by Google and they prefer not to share it publicly.

- **Cited By** is the best of GS’s limiters. It shows how often and by whom the article was cited by other authors.
  Think about **Metrics**, explained in Step Four  
  You can also copy a title you like from our Databases/OneSearch results to see in GS who, if anyone, cited it.

- **Author Name**: If an author’s name is hyperlinked ([Pat Smith](#)) that author has a GS profile page listing their works.
  You can sort their list by **Date** too.

**Remember** -- if Scholar does not offer direct and free access to the item, order it from Interlibrary Loan. For example, sometimes Scholar only offers the citation, or the webpage Scholar points you to asks you to pay -- don’t do it! Use Interlibrary Loan instead:

1. Collect the title of the item you want and put it into OneSearch Everything Search.
2. If we do not have it, order it through BeachReach/CSU+, Link+!
3. If OneSearch does not even have a record for it, fill out a blank form for BeachReach.

Your tuition pays for access to research materials. Do not pay twice! *Plan time for your research and interlibrary loan materials.*

Tips for Google (regular)

- Want results that are only pdf files? *Add to your search:* `filetype:pdf`
- Want only .gov websites? *Add to your search:* `site:.gov`
- Want only .edu websites? *Similar tip:* `site:.edu`
- Want to search within a website? *Add the website to your search:* `site:usa.gov`

Example: `filetype:pdf unicorns` = all my results will have PDFs available
### STEP SEVEN Evaluation

#### A Few Methods of Evaluation

**Your Instructors/Professors**
Your instructors often have a clear understanding (and strong opinions) about the journals, publishers and authors who are reputable in their fields. When in doubt, ask your instructors. They will know more than your librarian on this topic. Asking your instructors for their opinions of your research findings is a legitimate and useful addition to your learning.

All of these approaches help to determine Fake News as well!

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**Peer-Reviewed | Refereed**

1. *What do peer-reviewed journals have that trade magazines and websites do not?*

- They use vocabulary from the field *(sometimes called jargon)*
- Main Purpose = to share results of research
- Main Audience = scholars, professors, professionals, researchers, students
- Authors have specialty knowledge and expertise through advanced study & research in their field
- Author credentials and works cited/references listed
- Accountability controlled by a peer-review process

2. *How do I limit my searches to peer-reviewed?*

- Select "peer-reviewed" checkboxes when you see them available *(ex: in OneSearch & EBSCO databases)*

Check **Ulrichsweb**, in our A-Z databases, under “U”
*From Ulrichs: “Ulrichsweb is an easy to search source of detailed information on more than 300,000 periodicals *(also called serials)* of all types.” Search Ulrichs for journal titles. Type in the name of the journal, or 1-2 topic words. Ex: Psychology*  

- A referee jersey icon 🏈 means that the periodical is Peer-Reviewed/Refereed.
- A gold star icon ⭐ means the record includes a review. Ulrichs reviews are considered to be reliable. Read what they say about the journal & then discuss it with your instructor.

3. *How can I figure out on my own if a journal is peer-reviewed?*

1. Search Google for the journal’s website.
2. Find their “Submissions” page.
3. Consider what it takes to submit an article for review.
4. Look at their Review Board or Editors and Google search those people to find out their credentials.
5. Consider the kinds of experts, the level of their education and the years of research needed to be really notable in the field you’re searching.
6. Remember your searches take patience and time.

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**Author | Publisher | Copyright Holder of a website**

Look up authors and publishers to see who they are and where their expertise comes from. The copyright holder © is often found at the bottom of the Home Page and/or the About Page.

- The Web has no laws against lying. Anyone can write anything in an About page. Knowing who is willing to admit to owning a website *(through author & copyright)* helps to understand the angle of the information.

- If there is no clearly named author, publisher and/or copyright on the website, anywhere, that is a bad sign. This means no one wants to admit responsibility for presenting or producing the information.

- Google & Wikipedia can help us learn more about authors & publishers to get a sense of who people are, and learn names and terms that we can use to search for more detail. Ask questions like, *What’s the author’s background? Who funds the site? What other companies/sites are they affiliated with?* The answers will give you a sense of who owns produces the information you’re interested in.

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**Be careful of .edu and .org** They do not mean reputable. Reputation and reliability of colleges, universities and organizations varies. As well, we must be aware that students can use their school’s .edu for class blogs and make them look like professional sites. And, the .org “organization” may not mean not-for-profit. Just because the site is from a .edu or .org does not make it automatically appropriate for your research.

- Today, Web law requires a site to be educationally-based to be a .edu. But! *Before 2001, .edu had no restrictions — meaning any individual could have had a .edu site. These pre-2001 .edu sites have been “grandfathered in” and allowed to keep that .edu address. Learn more about .edu here:*  

- There are no restrictions on .org - be careful! Look at Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)’s notes about it here:  
  [icann.org/resources/pages/faqs-84-2012-02-05-en#3](https://icann.org/resources/pages/faqs-84-2012-02-05-en#3).

- Websites that are “.gov” for government or “.mil” for military should be legitimate, but always check the copyright owner.

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Evaluate each site, article and book as you study and explore. Take the time to evaluate thoroughly. Don’t just believe the hype.

See Step Four  for more information about evaluating sources through metrics.
Why does Citation Style Matter?

Citations are about giving credit to supporting research. By correctly indicating your exact sources in a certain style format, you give credit to the other author's work, and you allow anyone reading your work to find the exact source you used.

A particular Style is about accessing a source's information quickly. You are currently exploring many fields of study and across your classes, you may use different citation styles (e.g.: APA, Chicago/Turabian, MLA). Each style is built for a field of study and how people in that field want to access source information quickly. Your major focuses on a field of study, and the style for that field is the one you will use most often to cite your sources. You will get used to it and you’ll be able to read the style fast and easily. You’ll look up templates for that style when you do your own bibliographies.

**WARNING:** Citation Generators & Bib Generators

Similar to Bibliography Generators, many databases have Citation buttons in their results (often on the right or in the middle of the result page). You can select the citation while you are viewing a record to get the article's information in a chosen Style.

So many things can go wrong using a Bib service or the Cite button, so be careful!

1) Cut & Paste the citation into a Word Doc and "Merge Formatting" so that you keep any *italics*.

2) Compare the paste with a template from your citation style book, or one of the sources noted above. Make corrections - you will always need to edit your paste. *Do not just cut & paste and leave it as is! Make sure it is right!*

**REMEMBER** to adjust the font to the font you use in your paper

**REMEMBER** to double-space the entry + indent all secondary lines (called a "hanging indent")

**REMEMBER** to check the spelling, and the capital lettering per the Style you are using

(For Example: you don’t capitalize small words like "and" in MLA Style)