SEARCH STRATEGIES for EVERYONE - in brief

Interlibrary Loan

CSU+, Link+ and BeachReach = Illiad/Interlibrary Loan

The item you want has no PDF attached in its record?
**View It** or **Get It in the Library**
Try the first link at the top of the list. *If you don’t see the links, refresh the page or sign-out & in.*

Can’t find a record of your item in OneSearch?
Fill out a blank form with the information you have:
https://csulb-illiad-oclc-org.csulb.idm.oclc.org/illiad/illiad.dll

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

Research Guides / Library Guides

There are 19 librarians on campus to help you - each of us has a subject specialty

We create digital guides to help you begin your research

**Under the OneSearch Box, select Research Guides**

Select your subject. Search topics like English or MLA for my guides

Dr. P’s **Search Strategies for Everyone** handout has all the details for great searches.

### STEP ONE

Sign into the Library and start with the Databases

_csulb.edu > Menu > MyCSULB > Single Sign-On (SSO) > Beach ID & PW > Library Button > Databases A-Z>

#### 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:
SocINDEX:
SPORTDiscuss:
U.S. Data & Statistics
USA.gov & Congress.gov:

Fine Arts
Fashion
Money / Business
Communications
Teaching/Education
Newspapers
Environment & Sustainability
Engineering & Computer Sci
Literature & Art Criticism

Psychology
Medline & Life Sciences
STEM studies
Sociology
Fitness, kinesiology, law
National & Regional stats
USA official; laws & regs

I update this handout every semester. Let me know how I can improve it! Take the survey: csulb.libguides.com/engl_allmajors
Search Strategies for Everyone

2 STEP TWO Start searching with words you know = keywords
Keywords are your own words, or words you know from class assignments & your books
- food insecurity AND the United States
- food insecurity NOT the United States
- food insecurity OR food insufficiency OR food security issues OR hunger

3 STEP THREE Use the Limiters/Filters - they are often on the Left-side of the results
- Exclude Dissertations
- Exclude Book Reviews (These materials are not used in scholarly/college work)
- Peer-Reviewed / (Scholarly) Articles or Journals
- Full-Text (if you budget your time, you won’t ever need to check this box)

4 STEP FOUR Database Detailed Search Elements

SUBJECT TERMS | DATE | FORMAT | GEOGRAPHY

Truncation: environment* = results contain "environmentalist" and "environmentalism"
Thesaurus: Only some databases have a thesaurus.
Plus! Bibliography Mining & Metrics

5 STEP FIVE OneSearch
Books/eBooks & Media (CSULB) or Books & Media (CSULB)
Books/eBooks & Media (all CSU) or Books & Media (all CSU)
Everything (Bring Google titles back here!)
ORCA (Online Remote Collections Access - 30mins!)

6 STEP SIX Google Scholar scholar.google.com
Date | Relevance and Related Articles | Cited By | Author Name

7 STEP SEVEN Evaluation
Peer-Reviewed | Refereed
- 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

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8 STEP EIGHT Citation Style - you likely know OWL: owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/2/
Dr. P’s LibGuide on basic books & articles for MLA 8th Edition: csulb.libguides.com/mla8thEd