



LIBRARY RESEARCH GUIDE: BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

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NOTE: For an overview of the research process, see *EMPOWER* at <http://library.wichita.edu/empower/>.

General Tips for Searching E-resources

(Note: The following techniques usually work with online catalogs, periodical databases, reference databases, search engines, and other standard library resources)

- To search for exact phrases, enclose them within double quotation marks:
 - “south carolina”
 - “euphotic zone”
- To search for multiple endings of words, use an asterisk/star in place of the variant endings. This technique is known as “truncation.”
 - mammal* (retrieves “mammal,” mammals,” mammalian,” etc.)
 - educat* (retrieves “educate,” “educated,” “education,” “educational,” etc.)
- To find more than one term, use the “and” command. This command narrows your search.
 - “co-evolution” and ammonoidea
 - NOTE: Certain resources (e.g., Google) *assume* an “and” between multiple search terms, so you don’t need to include one there.
- To find synonymous / equally acceptable terms, use the “or” command (and enclose the phrase within parentheses):
 - (“avogadro constant” or “avogadro’s number”)

• **Reference/Background Materials**

- Useful electronic reference sources are listed on the [“Biology”](#) page, the [“Biochemistry”](#) page, the [“Chemistry”](#) page, and the [“Physics”](#) page within the library’s “E-Resources (arranged by academic discipline)” section. *Credo* and *Oxford Reference*, both of which comprise hundreds of reference “books” on all subjects, are especially useful.
- Relevant print books are located here in the library’s Reference Area:
 - Science (General): 500s
 - Biology/Life Sciences: 570s
 - Botany: 580s
 - Zoology: 590s
 - Chemistry: 540s
 - Astronomy: 520s

- Physics: 530s

- **Books**

- To find books in Converse's Mickel Library, use the [Mickel Library Catalog](#):
 - "Subject" searches: use when searching for a single concept and you know the correct Library of Congress subject heading, e.g.,
 - rain forests
 - chemistry, forensic
 - "Keyword" searches: use when combining multiple concepts and/or you don't know the correct subject heading, e.g.,
 - rainforests or "rain forests"
 - forensic* and (biolog* or chemi*)
- To find eBooks, use the *eBook Collection* from EBSCOhost and *Ebook Central* on the [E-books](#) page on our library's web site.
- To find books in college/university libraries in South Carolina, use [PASCAL](#).
- To find books in libraries throughout the U.S., use [WorldCat](#).

- **Articles in Scholarly Journals**

- General/Multidisciplinary Databases
 - [Academic Search Complete](#) – indexes over 12k periodicals (mostly academic journals, but some popular magazines as well); over 8k of these titles include the complete text of the articles:
 - Sample search:
 - Note: this resource defaults to a "keyword" search.
 - (rainforests or "rain forests") and (divers* or biodivers*) and tropical
 - [General Science Full Text](#) – indexes around 400 core scientific journals and provides the full text of articles from about 100 of these.
 - Sample search:
 - "doppler effect" and reflection
- Subject-Specific Databases
 - [BioOne Complete](#) – full text database of 200 leading journals in biological, ecological, and environmental sciences

- Note: Additional databases can be found on the pages for [Biology](#), [Chemistry](#), and [Physics](#) in the "E-Resources (arranged by academic discipline)" section.

- Databases held by **other area libraries**:

- Wofford:
 - *ACS Publications*
 - *ScienceDirect*

- USC Upstate
 - *MEDLINE Complete*
 - *ACS Publications*
 - *ScienceDirect*
 - *Web of Science*
 - *Chemical Abstracts*

- **Locating Articles** - To find an article for which you've found only a citation and/or an abstract, you'll need to click the "Periodicals Available at Converse" link (<https://www.converse.edu/academics/mickel-library/research/periodicals/>) on the library's home page:
 - Click on "[E-Periodicals \(in databases\)](#)" and key in the title of the journal (or at least the first word or two of the title) in the box to the right of the box with the words, "Title Begins With." If the periodical is included in any of the databases the library owns, it will appear in a list informing you of the databases that include it and which issues they include.
 - If you don't find the periodical via the "E-Periodicals (in databases)" link, click on "[Print Periodicals, Microform Periodicals, and Individually Subscribed E-Periodicals](#)" link and search by "title" for the periodical title (*not* the title of the *article*). If the library owns the periodical in any of these formats, its record will appear here and provide information on the periodical's format and the range of years for which the library owns it.
 - If you have any questions about finding an article, please contact one of the librarians.

- **Using InterLibrary Loan**
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 - **For books**, first check out [PASCAL Delivers](#), a statewide system that allows you to borrow books from other S.C. colleges and university libraries; these books arrive in about a week!
 - **For books not available through PASCAL and all other materials (such as journal articles)**, select "Interlibrary Loan" from [this page](#), and log in. Please make sure you select the correct form (e.g., Journal Article Request, Book Request) and fill it out as completely as you can. Articles generally arrive within 2-7 business days, while books usually take 5-14 business days.

