OC Library web page tab Research & Subject Guides
Biology Research Guide: Course Guides tab: BIOL275

Strategy 1: Search OCtopus for Books, Media, Articles, and More!

**Access Tip!**
For off-campus / wireless access to OCtopus, at Hello Guest prompt enter current MyOkanagan username (OC student id number) and password.

Results can include OC books, e-books & media, e-reference titles, reports, academic & scholarly journal articles, popular magazine and newspaper articles.
For Biology research, it searches EBSCOhost databases – Academic Search Premier, Greenfile, Medline plus JSTOR, Science Direct, Wiley Online which include content for key scientific academic journals – Nature, Science, Scientific American, Bioscience, Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Freshwater Biology ... and more.

**Type in your terms** e.g cyanobacteria toxicity wastewater   “western painted turtle”    pacific salmon climat* change   cyanobacteria climat* change   aquatic insects climat* change   lake* phytoplankton nutrient* phosphorus   “whirling disease” OR “myxobolus cerebralis”

**Search tips!** “phrase” climat* finds climate, climates, climatic and more search species/scientific names as well as popular names

At the left menu column, Refine Results

1. Find only OC Library books, e-books, non-print resources, videos
   Start with this box ticked ✔ Available from OC
   Then tick ✔ Books ✔ ebooks (show more)

2. Use date-slider/boxes to get most current results e.g. 2013-2018

3. For Journal Articles Tick ✔ Peer Reviewed & Scholarly

4. Refine results further
   . by Subject to get best subject match
   e.g. corbicula fluminea corbicular lakes phytoplankton
   **Tip!** Alternatively type subject term(s) into top search box
   . by Geography to get Canadian, North American results
4. Need more results?

- Under the right menu column, Also Try Searching
  Click a database name: CBCA (Canadian source for academic articles)
  ABI/Inform (for water resources research (international) journals)
  Tip! Results will appear in new window. Re-apply limits (left menu column)
  for date range, peer-reviewed, scholarly, [geographic] location

- Untick the box Available from OC
  If there is no full-text for your desired result(s), click Request this item
  through interlibrary loan & follow steps to submit online InterLibrary Loan request

5. Need even better results?

Under top search boxes, click Advanced Search
Type your extra terms into other boxes

corbicula fluminea cyanobacteria*
AND ecology OR habitat AND wastewater
AND invasion OR invasive AND tox* OR pollut* OR contamin*

“columbia river” lake*
AND treaty AND phytopkanton OR zooplankton
AND water OR environment* AND nutrient*
AND canada

pacific salmon
AND climat* change
AND canadian journal of fisheries in SO Journal Title

Results Tip!
- Use Add to Folder to gather your selected results then print/email/save results set
- Stop to tick the citation format box for APA so you also get a References list
  along with full-text of your articles

Strategy 2: Check Library Catalogues for books, e-books,
links to e-docs & research reports plus local area newspaper clippings files!

OC Library catalogue Books & Media

- Basic search within keyword
  e.g. cyanobacteria aquatic insect? ecolog? zebra mussel?

  Use symbol “?” ecolog? finds ecology, ecological
  Filter (right Action box) to limit to online sources

- Select subject links in records for more relevant items

- Check the UBC Library catalogue. Ask library staff to help you request items
  from UBC(O) and/or register with your OC id# as a UBC library borrower
Strategy 3: **Search in a specific database**

**ABI/Inform** (Proquest)
key water resources research & environmental technology journals
e.g. cyanobacteria wastewater toxicity

**JSTOR**
many scholarly peer-reviewed scientific journals eg *Ecology*

*Tips!* No subject searching feature, so search in full-text or title
e.g. pacific salmon and climate change
Check boxes for ✓ article ✓ review ✓ Include only content I can access

**Google Scholar**
Use this link and find what Scholar has that you can get full-text through OC

- Access articles from academic publishers, professional societies and universities plus scholarly articles available across the web & JSTOR.
- Many online journal articles show as pay-per-view - don't pay!

*Tip!*
Click **Settings** on top menu bar then click **Library Links**
Type **Okanagan College** & select. **Save** preferences.
Then at your search results list, you will have option to Click on **Where can I get this at Okanagan College Library?** And find it freely available at OC.

Strategy 4: **Search in a specific scientific journal**

Lib webpage > **OCtopus top menu bar** > **E-Journals and more**

- Search by *title of journal* to find access to its full text at journal website as subscribed by OC or in Library’s article database(s)

Examples:
*Canadian Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* (Academic Search, not latest 12 mths)
*Limnology and Oceanography* (not latest 36 months)
*Bioscience* (Academic Search, not latest 12mths),
*Ecology* (not latest 36 months)    *Ecosystems* (not latest 4 years)
*Freshwater Biology* (Wiley Online)
*Journal of North American Benthological Society* (JSTOR to 2011)
*Scientific American* (Academic Search)
*Science* (AAAS publisher website)
*Nature* (Publisher website)

- click **search within** publication
Strategy 5:
Find articles from Reference list of citations, or articles without immediate free full-text in Google search

Search OTopus for Books, Media, Articles, and More!

Try the OTopus engine first, type author(s) names & title words from article.
If in an OC licensed database or e-journal collection, the full text may appear.

OR OTopus top menu bar > E-Journals and more

- Search by title of journal to find database(s) to access journal full text at OC
- Use search within box, enter author(s) names & title words to find specific article

Strategy 6: Other sources: Grey literature & Web sources

Websites for Government ministries & research agencies:

British Columbia
BC Ministry of Environment / Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations
- Stewardship Division. Fish and Wildlife Branch *Ecological Reports Catalogue
- Water Stewardship Division www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd

Okanagan Basin Water Board www.obwb.ca searchable Okanagan Water Science Library

Canada
Environment and Climate Change Canada: Water publications www.ec.gc.ca/eau-water
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
enter lakes freshwater or more specific terms in main FOC website Search box

APA style

- Keep details of your sources, cite them (in-text) in your essay & list them on a References page at the end of your paper or presentation.
- Use free citation service websites Zotero, Mendeley, KnightCite
- Library WebPage > Citation Guides for examples of sources cited in APA format
- APA Style Guide from Purdue University Online Writing Lab (OWL)

Need help?

- Ask librarians at the Library Research Help desk
- Michelle Ward, Biology Librarian email: mward@okanagan.bc.ca