



Cornell University
Albert R. Mann Library

Library Research Guide
DSOC 324

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I. Research Questions

- Choose topic (e.g. Air pollution)
- Focus topic and determine aspect from which the topic is to be researched
 - minimizing or controlling acid rain to protect the environment, particularly in the United States
- Break topic into concepts and think of related terms
 - Acid rain, acid precipitation, acid deposition and rain; environment; environmental; control, protect, protection, policy, policies; United States, America
- Determine the research level
 - Do you need scholarly peer-reviewed material or popular sources?
 - Opposing viewpoints vs. one point of view? (see series like *Taking sides* or *Opposing viewpoints*)
 - Will you need statistics? Popular perceptions or opinion surveys?

II. Research Strategies in the Library Gateway

- **Finding history and background information**
- **Books, reference sources, and other supporting material**
- **[Library Catalog](#)**
- **Guided Keyword:** when you are exploring a subject and want to find what we have at Cornell; find possible titles and look at **Subject Headings** under **Long View**
 - Acid AND (rain OR precipitat?) AND United States as Terms Anywhere
 - *Acid rain the state of the science and research needs for the future*
 - **Subject Headings:** Acid rain --Research--United States; Acid rain --United States;
- **Basic Search:** when you know what you are looking for
 - Title must be exact
- **Finding background material through Find Databases**
 - **General Interest and Reference**
 - **[Reference Universe](#)** (index to print sources)
 - **Other catalogs**
 - **[Worldcat](#)** (catalogs of other libraries in US and world)

- **Finding Articles**
 - **Find Articles v. Find Databases**
 - Find Articles: simultaneous searching of more than one database; not for comprehensive searching
 - Find Databases: choose database and enter to search for individual articles
 - search for a broad subject category (environment NOT win-win conservation)
 - browse by subject: Environment and Natural Resources
 - Research and Subject Guides: for all guides see <http://www.library.cornell.edu/services/guides.html>
 - Mann's environmental science guide: <http://mannlib.cornell.edu/researchtools/environmentalsciences/>
 - **NOTE:** For hints see Most Popular Databases or Ask a Librarian!
 - **Look at a general database**
 - [Proquest Research Library](#) (general social sciences, sciences, and humanities database)
 - acid AND (rain OR precipitat*) AND United States
 - Subject headings: Acid rain; Acid rain AND Environmental Impact; Acid rain AND Environmental Policy
 - Limit to Scholarly Articles
 - **Look at scholarly database or database in the subject area** (e.g. interdisciplinary like Web of Science or see databases under subject like Environment and Natural resources)
 - [Web of Science](#) (interdisciplinary and citation database)
 - General Search-to look for a topic
 - (acid rain OR acid precipitat*) AND United States)
 - Refine your results by document type (articles and reviews)
 - Analyze your results (by author to see who has published most in this area)
 - View records and look at citation counts
 - Cited Ref Search
 - Likens G* in Science in 1996
 - Choose all that seem likely since there are often errors in citations
 - Click Finish Search
 - [Environmental Issues & Policy Index](#) (environmental subject database)
 - **Acid rain OR acid precipitation as Subjects and narrow by United States as Descriptor**
 - **Limit to peer-reviewed articles from the last ten years**
 - [Sociological Abstracts](#) (sociology subject database)
 - **Affluenza as Keyword**
 - **Consumerism as Descriptor AND Mass Media as Descriptor; Limit to last ten years and English**

- **Other Useful Databases**
 - [JSTOR](#)-for scholarly articles in the social sciences, sciences and humanities
 - [PAIS](#)-for public policy aspects of these topics
 - [BIOSIS](#)—for biological topics like invasive species
 - [CAB Abstracts](#)—for agricultural topics, especially international
 - [AGRICOLA](#)—for agricultural topics, especially US
 - [Popline](#)—for population topics
 - [Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals](#)—for topics like green architecture
 - [Applied Science & Technology Index](#)—for technical and engineering topics like alternative energy

How to get the full-text article if it's not in the database?

- In some databases, choose **Get it! Cornell** or **Search Cornell Library Catalog** links. These should automatically connect you but this is an **experimental** service; try all the links if the first one don't work
- The best way to know what we have is to **go to the Library Catalog and search by Journal Title**

III. Other Resources from the Library and on the Web

- **Cornell-specific, library created resources**
 - To find out what is happening in life sciences and CALS:
 - **VIVO**- <http://vivo.library.cornell.edu/>
 - **CALS Research Portal**- <http://www.cals.cornell.edu/research/>
- **Resources on the web in general**
 - Google and other search engines and web resources can be especially good for locating government, association, and other freely available information; definitions and initial topic leads; verifying citations, etc.; Google Scholar better for academic research (doesn't cover as much as library databases), set Scholar Preferences to get Cornell-licensed material off-campus
 - Evaluate! For tips, see Evaluating Web Resources Guide at http://www.library.cornell.edu/t/help/res_strategy/evaluating/evaluate.html.

IV. Citing Your Sources

- Citation tools (MLA and APA citation style quickguides; EndNote and Refworks citation management programs): <http://www.library.cornell.edu/services/citing.html>
- The College of Arts & Sciences tutorial on recognizing and avoiding plagiarism <http://plagiarism.arts.cornell.edu/tutorial/index.cfm>