Finding Articles for Biology Courses

The library provides access to a number of online databases that can be used to find research articles on your topic. Some contain full text articles, and some contain citations and abstracts. Articles you find may be available in print and/or electronic form. A few good starting points are listed below.

- **Biological Sciences**: [http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/pqbiologicalsciences](http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/pqbiologicalsciences)
- **ScienceDirect**: [http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/sciencedirect](http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/sciencedirect)
- **JSTOR**: [http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/jstor](http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/jstor)
- **Wiley Online Library**: [http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/wiley](http://libguides.jsu.edu/resources/wiley)

In addition, your topic might be in a general database such as *Academic Search Premier*. Background information is available in *Access Science*, the online version of the *McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology*.

**Shortcut Database Access from Homepage:**
List of Electronic Resources and Databases [http://www.jsu.edu/library/resources/index.html](http://www.jsu.edu/library/resources/index.html)

Some useful Web sites include:
BioMed Central: [http://www.biomedcentral.com/journals](http://www.biomedcentral.com/journals)
Google Scholar ([http://scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com)).
Note: the most current articles may not be available, however, and not all articles are free.

**More Useful Resources**

**Full Text Finder:** if you have an article citation, search by title, journal name, ISBN, etc., to see if your article is available, using the *Journals* tab on the home page.

**Subject Guides:**
[http://libguides.jsu.edu/biology](http://libguides.jsu.edu/biology)
[http://libguides.jsu.edu/bioresearch](http://libguides.jsu.edu/bioresearch)

**Search Tips and Techniques**

**Limit Your Search to Research or Scholarly Journals**
Many databases offer an option to limit your search by selecting an option such as “peer-reviewed” or “scholarly.”
**Boolean Search:** Use connectors AND, OR, NOT, i.e. Cats AND Dogs; Cats OR Dogs; Cats NOT Dogs. AND narrows your search, and OR broadens.

**Parentheses:** Use to group words together as a phrase in Boolean searches. i.e. (stem cell) AND mouse.

**Truncation:** Common symbol is an *. Use to search for variations in word endings, i.e. nurs* will find nurse, nurses, nursing.

**Some things to check when evaluating sources:**
Who is the author? Are they a scholar in the field?
Who is the intended audience?
Does the article show bias or is it objective?
What is the article’s purpose? Is it to inform a scientific audience?
Does it list references or works cited?

Evaluating Print vs. Internet Sources: [https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/04/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/553/04/)
Properties of Scholarly, Popular and Trade Journals: [http://libguides.utsa.edu/scholarly](http://libguides.utsa.edu/scholarly)

**Interlibrary Loan**
As a last resort, after you have exhausted other sources for your article, biology majors and graduate students may request an Interlibrary Loan from another library by filling out the online form linked via Quicklinks on the right side of the homepage ([http://www.jsu.edu/library/forms/ill_request_form.html](http://www.jsu.edu/library/forms/ill_request_form.html))

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