AGRI 116 – Library Research Guide

Get Assistance

Your Librarian

**Renae Watson** is your librarian. Contact her at renae.watson@colostate.edu or 970.491.5338.

Book a research consultation at [https://rjwatson.youcanbook.me](https://rjwatson.youcanbook.me)

Research Guides

Your research guide for this course is at [http://libguides.colostate.edu/agri116](http://libguides.colostate.edu/agri116)

Use research guides made by your CSU librarians to find recommended databases, websites, journals, and other research resources for specific subject areas and courses at [http://libguides.colostate.edu/](http://libguides.colostate.edu/)

Help Desk and Ask Us!

The Help Desk in Morgan Library can help you start your research, refer you to a subject-specialist librarian, assist you with printing projects, and help you navigate the library.

**Ask Us!** chat/email/text services can help you start your research and with general questions about library services.

Technical Support Services

Visit the Computer Diagnostic Center behind the Morgan Library Help Desk for free personal computer support like connecting to wifi/email and laptop tune-ups. The Computer Repair Center offers fee-based computer repair and update services. Find out more at [https://lib.colostate.edu/technology/tech-support-computer-repair/](https://lib.colostate.edu/technology/tech-support-computer-repair/)

Start Your Search at the Library Website

Starting at the library website [http://lib.colostate.edu/](http://lib.colostate.edu/) will ensure you have access to everything your student fees pay for. There are many full-text resources you won't find through Google!

Off-Campus Access

When trying to access library resources from off campus, you will encounter a login screen. Sign in with your eID and password (the same you use with RamWeb) to gain access. If you have trouble, click on **Off-Campus Access** under the search box on the CSU Libraries home page.
Library Resources at-a-Glance

Search for books, journals, videos, articles, and more by starting at the CSU Libraries homepage!

Books – Undergraduates can check out books for 4 weeks at a time. If CSU doesn’t have it, you can almost always get it from Prospector (prospectorhome.coalliance.org) or Interlibrary Loan.

Articles & Databases – Use library databases to find academic, relevant articles. Choose databases by research topic area or database title at http://libguides.colostate.edu/az.php

Journals or Citations – Search for known journal titles or citations by clicking on the Citation Linker at the top of the page at primo.library.colostate.edu

General Search Tips

- Combine search terms using AND, OR. (Yes, do capitalize!) Examples: cotton OR gossypium (the genus for cotton); cacao AND history
- Use truncation (often symbolized by an asterisk *) at the end of a word stem to search for other forms of that word. Example: cultiva* captures cultivate, cultivating, cultivar, etc.
- Use quotation marks to search for phrases. Example: “plant science” will ensure your search only includes results in which those words are side-by-side.

Search Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Not finding enough?</th>
<th>Finding too much?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check spelling (different spellings?)</td>
<td>Add more terms/concepts (using AND)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Remove a search term</td>
<td>Add limits (date, subject, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add synonyms (using OR)</td>
<td>Use narrower terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use broader terms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Try a different database</td>
<td></td>
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Evaluate

Evaluate what you find by remembering the 3 R’s:

- Relevancy
- Reliability
- Recency
Where to Start

Get to these databases by clicking on A-Z Database List from the CSU Libraries homepage, or use the quick links below.

**Academic Search Premier**

http://lib.colostate.edu/databases/permlink.php?id=392

Provides access to journals, magazines, conference papers, newspapers, book chapters, book reviews and educational reports, and more.

**CAB Abstracts**

http://lib.colostate.edu/databases/permlink.php?id=482

Provides access to research and developmental literature in the applied life sciences, including agriculture, forestry, human nutrition, veterinary medicine, and the environment.

**Web of Science**

http://lib.colostate.edu/databases/permlink.php?id=690

Covers journal articles and conference proceedings in arts and humanities, social sciences, and sciences.

**The Search Process**

**Search**

Search for your topic. For example, search for *chocolate*

**Refine**

- Use alternative, fewer, or more search terms depending on results
- Use truncation, operators, or phrase searching
- Use limits such as limit to Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

**Retrieve**

- Grab the full text if you can, either in the results list or by using the FindIt@CSU button
- Email your results to yourself, or save the permalinks, etc.

**Evaluate Credibility**

- Look at the author, publisher, language, targeted audience, and things like format/advertisements
- Make sure the article is relevant to your topic

**Cite**

- Many databases have a Cite tool so you can copy and paste a citation directly into your bibliography
- Make sure to double check all citations, and don’t forget your in-text citation as well
- Use a citation management software, such as EndNote, Zotero, or Mendely (great tools!)
Scholarly vs. Popular

Differentiating between types of publications can be difficult. Here are a few key points:

### Scholarly Journals
- Written by and for experts; authoritative
- Reviewed/evaluated by experts; peer-reviewed or refereed
- Long bibliographies and/or footnotes
- Lengthy articles that contain specialized language
- Contain charts, tables, or graphs
- Ex: *Plant Systematics & Evolution*

### Popular Publications
- Magazines and newspapers
- Written by journalists; reviewed by editors
- Written for a general audience
- No, or short, bibliography
- Brief articles that use non-technical language
- Contain advertisements and photos
- Ex: *Time* or *Newsweek*

Remember you can ask for help!