

## Colorado State University Libraries

Library home page: <http://lib.colostate.edu>

Help Desk: 970-491-1841

Loan/Reserve Desk: 970-491-1842





### Get started

The Honors LibGuide, <http://libguides.colostate.edu/honors>, section titled

“Before you come to the library,” provides links that help you:

1. Activate your **Interlibrary Loan (ILLiad)** account - <http://lib.colostate.edu/illiad/registration>  
– to place requests/holds for library items and to renew materials online through your library account
2. Use the **Libraries’ Discovery catalog** - <http://discovery.library.colostate.edu>  
– to locate books, e-books, government documents, maps, films, and other items owned by CSU
3. Get to know **Prospector**, our **regional catalog** - <http://www.coalliance.org/prospector>  
– if our library doesn’t have an item you need, use Prospector to have it sent to you here in just a matter of days from another library in the region. If it’s not available in Prospector, you can use Interlibrary Loan.

### Google is just the tip of the iceberg

Pretty much everyone starts a research project by heading to  or Wikipedia. It’s natural, and it’s not a bad way to get your feet wet with a topic you may not know much about. But now that you’re a CSU student, you should take advantage of **your library databases** to find **authoritative information** from scholarly and popular publications. Once you know how to **find and use library databases**, you’ll impress your professors (and yourself) with well-researched papers that have a goldmine of resources cited in your bibliography. Trust us, professors can tell the difference between a “Googled” research paper and one that shows you put in the time and effort to find top quality information. 

### Scholarly journals vs. popular publications

#### Scholarly journals

- Written by and for experts; authoritative
- Evaluated by experts; peer-reviewed or refereed
- Include bibliographies and/or footnotes
- Contain charts, tables, or graphs
- Lengthy articles that contain specialized language
- Example: *Journal of Social Psychology*

#### Popular publications

- Magazines and newspapers
- Written by journalists; reviewed by editors
- Written for a broad audience
- Brief articles that use non-technical language
- Contain advertisements, photos, flashy covers
- Examples: *Time* or *Newsweek*

### CQ Researcher: Finding background information from scholarly reports

**CQ Researcher** contains comprehensive 12,000-word full-text reports, written by journalists, analyzing issues in the news. Reports include **background information** and an assessment of the situation at the time the report was written. Use the **contacts section** to find stakeholders, the **bibliography** to find other books or articles on the topic, and the **Pro/Con section** to see how select stakeholders present their position on the topic. Aside from the Pro/Con sections, **CQ Researcher reports take a neutral stand on controversial issues.**

From the Libraries’ homepage, select the “Articles and Databases” tab in the center of the page. Beneath Option 1, go to “Browse Databases by Title” and click on “C.” Scroll down to find the link to *CQ Researcher* alphabetically.

#### Search Tips:

- Recent reports are listed on the CQ Researcher homepage
- To search for a specific topic, use the “Quick Search” box at the top of the CQ homepage
- Still trying to decide on a topic? Select Browse by topic at left on the CQ homepage to see reports broadly grouped by subject.



## Academic Search Premier: Finding magazine and journal articles


**Academic Search Premier** is an excellent general, multi-disciplinary database that includes articles on everything from art to zoology. It indexes more than 8,500 **magazines, peer-reviewed journals**, and a few major newspapers. This is **one of the best places to start your research**.

From the Libraries' homepage, select the "Articles and Databases" tab in the center of the page. The link to *Academic Search Premier* can be found alphabetically under the letter "A" or listed below Option 2.



### Search Tips:

- Use a variety of **keywords**, but avoid using STOP Words like a, the, an, of, in, etc.
- Use **AND, OR, and NOT** to combine keywords
- Use **truncation** by typing the root of a word followed by an asterisk \* to search for various endings (for example, flood\* will find floods, flooded, or flooding)
- Limit your search using publication date, type of publication, etc. to help focus your search

**How do I get the article? Use the FindIt@CSU button to track down practically any article you need!** When looking through your search results, you'll see some citations have links to full-text articles. If there isn't a link to the PDF or HTML full-text article, look for the  button. This tool searches behind the scenes in many of our library databases to see if we have access to the article. If we *do* have access, you will see a message that says "**Full text available via...**" and then a link to another database. Click and voilà! The article! Easy! If we *don't* have access to the article, you'll see a message that says "No electronic version available. Please use ILL services." But don't worry! Just look a bit lower and click the link to our fantastic **Interlibrary Loan** service. Login to request the article from another library. It will arrive electronically within 24-48 hours, for free!

## LexisNexis Academic: Finding newspaper articles

**LexisNexis Academic** contains extensive and current **newspaper** coverage, as well as access to a wide range of business, legal, and reference information. Most articles are available in full-text.

From the Libraries' homepage, select the "Articles and Databases" tab in the center of the page. The link to *LexisNexis Academic* can be found alphabetically under the letter "L" or listed below Option 2.

**LexisNexis® Academic**

### Search Tips:

- For the most customizable search, choose "News" from the tabs on the left side of the page, and then select "**All News.**" This lets you enter search terms, select sources, and narrow your results by date.
- Want to search a specific source (such as The Denver Post)? In the "Select Source" box on the "All News" search page, you can search groups of sources by type or a specific source by name.

## What did you find?

- Too much? Not enough? Is there a way to **rethink & improve your search**?
- Did you record the **citation information** for each article you will use? (the article title, the source/publication name, the name(s) of the author(s), the volume and issue numbers, date, and page numbers)
- **Evaluate** what you find, remembering the 3 R's: **Relevancy, Reliability, and Recency**.  
For more information, see "How to Evaluate Journal Articles" <http://lib.colostate.edu/howto/evaljrl.html>

## Need more help?

- Stop by the **Help Desk in Morgan Library**, or call **970-491-1841**.
- If you need additional assistance, the friendly Help Desk folks can refer you to a **librarian** for one-on-one help.
- **Research Guides** can help you get started in a variety of subject areas: <http://lib.colostate.edu/research>. These guides include **recommended databases** and the **contact information for the librarian** who works with that discipline. We are happy to help!