Finding Life 212 resources
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Topic: The use of Fluorescence Microscopy in Cancer Patients

Some key things to remember about searching in databases:

1. Databases only look for the keywords you enter. When you search with keywords, you are making assumptions that certain words MUST appear in articles that are about your topic. Remember articles can be on the same topic but use different words to describe it.

2. You use logic to tell the database what you are looking for:
   AND, OR, NOT, (), * and “” can be used to specify relationships between keywords

Examples:

An intuitive, but likely incomplete, search:

"Fluorescence microscopy" AND cancer

I wouldn’t include “treatment” as a keyword concept because most articles about treatment won’t use the word treatment but will talk about specific treatments or diagnosis protocols. You might find an indexing term that accounts for it.

Will every article ABOUT this topic reliably contain the words we chose to describe the topic? Are there synonyms we might be missing? Will every article about cancer have the word cancer? You work out this issue with various strategies depending on the database and its features

"Fluorescence microscopy" AND (cancer* OR neoplasm* OR tumo*)

A. PRIMO – the Morgan Library Discovery Tool

PRIMO allows you to search all library resources from a single search bar. This is a good place to go if you want to just do a quick search, but it can be overwhelming without wise use of search limits. Can be hard to narrow down results from a giant list with mixed resource types.
The limiters on the left side bar can be helpful to narrow your list. Commonly used limiters are limiting the “Resource Type” to only Books/ebooks as many prefer to search for journal articles in specific databases for more searching flexibility.

Electronic resources such as journal articles in PRIMO will have a link to take you to the full text.

1. **eBook (click “online access” link)**

   ![Ebook example]

   **Fluorescence spectroscopy in biology: advanced methods and their applications to membranes, proteins, DNA, and cells**
   M Hof (Martin); R Hutterer (Rudi); V Fidler (Vlastimil)
   Berlin ; New York : Springer , c2005

   ![Available link]

2. **Electronic Journal (click “full text available” link)**

   ![Article example]

   **Conjugated-Polymer-Based Red-Emitting Nanoparticles for Two-Photon Excitation Cell Imaging with High Contrast**
   Li, S ; Shen, Xq ; Li, L ; Yuan, Py ; Guan, Zp ; Yao, Sq ; Xu, Qh

   ![Full text available link]

A good tip is to look at your results and get other ideas for keywords to describe your concepts. (tumors, neoplasms, specific types of therapy, etc). Also you can use “Advanced Search” to only look for your results in the “title” field.

("Fluorescence microscopy" OR "fluorescence spectronomy") AND (cancer OR neoplasm* OR tumor*)

**B. Web of Science – Comprehensive database of journal literature in the sciences.**
lib.colostate.edu – A-Z database list - W

Databases are listed alphabetically or under the topic menu.

("Fluorescence microscopy" OR "fluorescence spectronomy") AND (cancer OR neoplasm* OR tumor*) AND therap*

1. Web of Science searches can be filtered for narrowing in the left sidebar:

   ![Web of Science filter](image1.png)

2. The “Find it at CSU” button will take you to full text, if available, or a link to order it through interlibrary loan.

   ![Web of Science citation](image2.png)

3. Web of Science lets you generate a list of items that cited an article as well as the items it cites

   ![Web of Science citation report](image3.png)

C. PubMed

   ![PubMed citation](image4.png)

   lib.colostate.edu – A-Z database list - P

Databases are listed alphabetically or under the topic menu.

1. Keyword searching:
("Fluorescence microscopy" OR "fluorescence spectronomy") AND (cancer OR neoplasm* OR tumor*) AND therap*

PubMed results will generate a high quality list of “similar articles” which you can limit to only reviews or all similar articles.

You can also limit results in PubMed by many different facets:

- Article types
- Clinical Trial
- Review
- Customize ...

- PubMed Commons
- Reader comments
- Trending articles

- Publication dates
  - 5 years
  - 10 years
  - Custom range...

- Species
  - Humana
  - Other Animals

- Sex
  - Female
  - Male

- Ages
  - Child: birth-18 years
  - Infant: birth-23 months
  - Adult: 19+ years
  - Adult: 19-44 years
  - Aged: 65+ years
  - Customize ...