Connecting to Online Library Resources Off-Campus

When off-campus, go to the UA Libraries Catalog or Website to use the proxy server. Go to a definition of a proxy server.

You will be prompted for your UANet ID and password from The University of Akron Login screen. Most of the time, you will be prompted one time per browser session. If you go to the URL of a database or an electronic article directly, you will bypass the proxy server.

Some resources like SciFinder Scholar will require another user id and password, but most don't. Often when you are prompted by anything besides The University of Akron Login screen, either

- You didn't go through or were somehow dropped by the proxy server or
- We don't have access to the particular item, such as an article from a year of a journal that isn't part of our subscription. Check the Publication Finder to verify dates that we subscribe.

For some additional proxy server troubleshooting tips, use the eZProxy Troubleshooting Library Guide.

Getting Started

A great place to go when getting started with your research is the

- Science & Technology Library Subject Guides.

The guides answer frequently asked questions and list interesting resources for your discipline or major. On the library’s homepage in the Search Section, there is a tool called ZipSearch. It searches multiple databases and catalogs. It can be a good place when getting started with your research; however, it can’t be used for in-depth research.

An example of when to use and when not to use ZipSearch is as follows. Let’s say you need an article to review for a class project, you could try ZipSearch first. You can use it because you only need one article and you don’t need to do a thorough search. If you are performing a background search for your thesis or a research project, use the individual, relevant databases individually. If you are looking for a particular book, use theUA Libraries Catalog directly. Use the ZipSearch Guide for more information. The other sections of this tutorial will describe how to use the UA Libraries Catalog and several databases directly.

Finding a Book

The catalog contains material like books, government documents, and journals. Keep in mind that the catalog contains journal titles not article titles. To find articles on a topic, go to the section, finding an Article.
Figure 1. UA Libraries Catalog

You can search in several different ways in our catalog. However most of the time, you will use the keyword or title search. A keyword search will seek search terms in most fields. If you put in the singular term, the search will not find the plural term. For example, the search term, sensor, will find sensor, but won’t find sensors. To find sensor and sensors, you must use *. In addition, it will find any word that begins with your search term. You can relate your search terms to each other using Boolean operators (i.e. AND, OR, AND NOT). For example, the search, “food safety” AND restaurant*, will find the exact phrase “food safety” and it will find terms like restaurant or restaurants. If you receive no results, remember there is no spell check in our catalog.

For a title search, you must know the exact title or the beginning of the title. It is easy to type in a wrong preposition in a title and not find the book. For example, if you were looking for Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics journal on algebraic and discrete methods and you typed Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics journal for algebraic, it won’t find the journal. For more information about each of the available searches, use the documentation on the homepage in the catalog.

On the search results screen, some items in the list will contain the connect button, such as an eBook. Other items will list a request button, as well as a call number and location. If you want to find a fact in a book quickly, you might want to search eBook databases and websites, such as Knovel, Safari, SpringerLink, or Wiley Online Library, directly. These websites can be found using the Databases by Title section of the library website. Keep in mind that not everything is available to download from SpringerLink and the Wiley Online Library, but you might be able to get the physical book from elsewhere.

If you select the title of a book in the results list, the detailed record will appear with additional information about the book. Figure 2 would be in the results list when searching “food safety” AND restaurant*.

Figure 2. Electronic Book Example — Detailed Record

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Food Regulation [electronic resource]: Law, Science, Policy, and Practice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Fortin, Neal D</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Connect to

Wiley Online Library Connect to resource
Wiley Online Library Connect to resource (off-campus)
The item in Figure 3 is located at Bierce. This book could be checked out using your ZipCard. If this book was at the Science & Technology Library, LOC would likely be Science (lower level), Science Reference (main level), or Science Reserve (behind the circulation counter).

**Figure 3. Example of a Book in our Library**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOC</th>
<th>CALL #</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bierce</td>
<td>TX911.3.S24 N386 1999</td>
<td>AVAILABLE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nearly everything circulates with a LOC of Science. Most of the time, a LOC of Science Reference doesn’t circulate. The reserve books (LOC Science Reserve) have varied checkout times, but many are 2 or 4 hours in library use.

**Getting a Book UA Libraries doesn’t have**

If we don’t have a book or a book isn’t available, you can order it through OhioLINK. Normally, it takes 3 to 5 working days. To order a book, press OhioLINK in the UA Libraries Catalog and request the item. For the institution, choose “U of Akron” from the combo box. Enter your UANet ID, password, and pick up location, such as Science Library, to complete request.

If you want a book and you can’t get it from UA or OhioLINK, try the SearchOhio button from OhioLINK’s catalog. If it isn’t available from SearchOhio, you can try to get it from interlibrary loan. *What is interlibrary loan?*

**Checking your Library Record**

From your library record, you can check due dates, renew material, and view status of ordered material. Select the **My Account Login** hyperlink from the UA Libraries Catalog or **My Library** from any University Libraries webpage to check it, and then enter your UANet ID and password. All library information will be sent to your University of Akron email account. Check your email often or forward it to an email account that you check often.

**Finding an Article**

To search for an article on a topic, use our databases. If you know the title of the database that you want, use the Databases by Title section of the library website. For databases in a subject area, use the Science & Technology Library Subject Guides as a starting point.

The remainder of this section will discuss several databases of interest to disciplines in science and engineering. General databases or those for several disciplines will be introduced. More topic specific databases can be found using the Science & Technology Library Subject Guides.
Web of Science

is an interdisciplinary database [Go to Web of Science]. This database is known for having a selective process in deciding what to include particularly for journals. The good is that it contains quality journals. The bad is that you won’t find as many articles. The ugly is that there could be quality, scholarly articles that it doesn’t include. Keep in mind that Web of Science is better for some subjects than others. These facts prove that you should use more than one database when you are searching for articles. A keyword search was performed pertaining to the health of the environment due to metals from power plants or mines.

Figure 4. Search Example using Web of Science

For line 1, type health NEAR/5 environment* in the textbox and use the default, Topic search.

For line 2, use the default operator, AND, in the combo box. In the textbox, type metal and use the default, Topic search.

For line 3, use the default operator, AND, in the combo box. In the textbox, type power NEAR/1 plant OR mine and use the default, Topic search.

Search Result from Web of Science

Defunct gold mine tailings are natural reservoir for unique bacterial communities revealed by high-throughput sequencing analysis

By: Sibanda, Timothy et al.

SCIENCE OF THE TOTAL ENVIRONMENT Volume: 650 Pages: 2199-2209 Part: 2 Published: FEB 10 2019

Select the Full Text Finder Button and you will find this article is available for download at the ScienceDirect.

Examples of Databases that use the EBSCO Interface

Over 100 databases use the EBSCO interface. Not all of them are databases that pertain to science and engineering, but many do.

Finding Full Text in EBSCO

All of these databases will have features in common. For example, you will use either the PDF full text hyperlink, the Full Text Finder Button, or the Request from interlibrary loan hyperlink to get a copy of an article. Using the Request from interlibrary loan hyperlink will be discussed on page 8.

How to Search in EBSCO Databases

If you type a search term like reservoir that is in its singular form, it will look for the singular, plural, and possessive terms (e.g. reservoir, reservoirs, reservoir’s). If you need more variations of a word, you can use truncation. Typing permeab* would find permeable and permeability.

If you want to search for a phrase, enclose it in quotation marks, such as “geothermal reservoir.” If you type nothing between two terms in one text box, it will seek those
terms to be within five words of each other (e.g. geothermal energy production from a reservoir). If you wanted to make sure two terms were present and you didn’t care how close they were to each other, you would use the AND operator.

Figure 5. Search Example using the AND operator from an EBSCO database

geothermal Select a Field (optional)
AND reservoir Select a Field (optional)

A good compromise between a phrase search like “geothermal reservoir” and using the Boolean operator as in Figure 5 is to use the proximity operator directly. It isn’t as broad of a search as in Figure 5 and it isn’t as narrow as using an exact phrase. Near is usually the most helpful proximity operator. For our example, we will require geothermal and reservoir to be at most three words apart in any order (N3).

Figure 6. Search Example using the NEAR operator from an EBSCO database

permebil* Select a Field (optional)
AND geothermal N3 reservoir Select a Field (optional)

The search in Figure 6 will give more search results than if you used “geothermal reservoir” which helps you find additional good articles. You would get less than geothermal AND reservoir, so you will throw out some irrelevant results. Most databases in EBSCO use a Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals checkbox as well.

• What is Peer Review?

Differences between EBSCO Databases

There are differences between the databases using the EBSCO interface too. We will use two examples of EBSCO databases, GeoRef and MathSciNet to illustrate this. Both databases are comprehensive in their fields and include journal articles. Both databases contain more document types. For example, GeoRef and MathSciNet include books, where MathSciNet can contain a review of the book by someone else in addition to all the information that you need to find the book. Maps can be found in GeoRef; many other databases don’t have maps.

GeoRef and MathSciNet have some different limiters or filters. GeoRef has special filters like source medium, type of degree, and map type. They both have publication types but there are different choices. You can search them at the same time, but the special filters will be separate in the Search Options section of the Advanced Search webpage. Only fields both databases have in common will appear in the dropdown box on the Advanced Search webpage.

GeoRef and MathSciNet search different fields when you don’t select a field from the dropdown box. GeoRef searches all authors, all subjects, all keywords, all titles (including the source title), and all abstracts. MathSciNet searches the title, primary
and secondary classifications, review, source, author, and author affiliation fields. For details about the different fields that can be found, use the help hyperlink in EBSCO.

**GeoRef**

is useful for topics related to geology [Go to GeoRef](#). A keyword search was performed relating to slate and boreholes.

**Figure 7. Search Example using GeoRef**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>slate</td>
<td>Select a Field (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>borehole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select a Field (optional)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Search Result from GeoRef**

**Analysis of variation characteristics of geothermal response in Liaoning Province** by Zhu Wei.  
Subjects: Economic geology, geology of energy sources; Asia; boreholes; characterization; China; clastic rocks; Dalian China; diffusivity; energy sources; Far East; geothermal energy...

Select the Full Text Finder Button and you will find this article is available for download from the EBSCO Open Access Journals.

**MathSciNet**

is useful for topics related to mathematics [Go to MathSciNet](#). A keyword search was performed relating to using Green's Functions to solve boundary value problems.

**Figure 8. Search Example using MathSciNet**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>boundary value problem</td>
<td>Select a Field (optional)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>green function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select a Field (optional)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Search Result from MathSciNet**

**Application of the method of fundamental solutions to predict the acoustic performance of T-shaped thin barriers**


Select the Full Text Finder Button and you will find this article is available for download from the publisher website, ScienceDirect.
Examples of Databases that use the ProQuest Interface

Materials Science & Engineering Database (contains the specialized database, Copper Technical Reference Library) uses the ProQuest Interface. For more information about the list of databases, use Databases from the main menu in ProQuest.

Albeit it isn’t articles, another database of interest is ProQuest Dissertations & Theses. It is more comprehensive for dissertations than theses, but there are some theses. Keep in mind that not all dissertations are available free in this database. You can download open access and most UA dissertations in full text from this database only. More ways to locate dissertations and theses will be discussed in the section, Finding a Dissertation or Thesis.

Finding Full Text in ProQuest

The database has more than journal articles. If you find a patent, the Full Text Finder button won’t work. It is better to use Google Patent, the US Patent and Trademark Office, or the European Patent Office in this case.

How to Search in ProQuest Databases

Just like with the EBSCO databases, you can connect search terms using the operators, AND, OR and NOT. ProQuest finds the plural form of a word automatically as well. You can use proximity operators too. Their form is just a little different. Using the geothermal reservoir example, it would be geothermal NEAR/3 reservoir for these databases.

The default for the field dropdown box is anywhere and it searches any field available from all the databases that you have selected. The search options and limit to checkboxes can differ depending on what database you search as well.

Materials Science & Engineering Database

searches contains material science and engineering topics, especially aspects of civil and mechanical engineering [Go to Materials Science & Engineering Database]. A keyword search was performed relating to polymers in fiber reinforced concrete.

Figure 9. Search Example using Material Science & Engineering Database

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiber* NEAR/3 reinforc*</th>
<th>in</th>
<th>Anywhere</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AND concrete*</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>Anywhere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND polymer</td>
<td>in</td>
<td>Anywhere</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Search Result from Materials Science & Engineering Database

Ecofriendly treatment of aloe vera fibers for PLA based green composites

When you select the Full Text Finder Button, there is a Request from interlibrary loan hyperlink. Double check the UA Libraries catalog to be sure that we don’t have the year of *International Journal of Precision Engineering and Manufacturing - Green Technology* that contains this article. Since we don’t have this journal, you might be able to get it by requesting it from interlibrary loan.

**Using the Request through interlibrary loan hyperlink**

After pressing the Request from interlibrary loan hyperlink, the form will be partially filled out for you. Be sure to check the information is right – The more correct the information you give them, the faster you will get the article.

**Filling out the Interlibrary Loan Request Form**

We will fill out the **About my item** section of the request form as follows.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal Title: *</th>
<th>Published Date:</th>
<th>Volume:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of Precision Engineering and Manufacturing-Green Technology</td>
<td>20180101</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue/Number:</td>
<td>Page Numbers: *</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2288-6206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Author of article:</td>
<td>ISSN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaitanya, Saurabh; Singh, Inderdeep</td>
<td>22886206</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOI:</td>
<td>Where did you learn about this item?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Getting your Article**

Interlibrary loan will get the article for you if they can. If they can get a copy, you will get an email when your article is ready. If they can’t get a copy, you will get an email letting you know as well.

**Finding a Dissertation or Thesis**

**UA Libraries Catalog**

Many theses and dissertations from the University of Akron are in the UA Libraries Catalog. If you are interested in recent Theses and Dissertations from University of Akron, go to the section, *OhioLINK Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETD)*.

Older theses are arranged in alphabetical order with respect to name. Older dissertations are spread out across the library. For these reasons, it is best to search
the UA Libraries catalog to find them. We have some theses and dissertations that aren’t from the University of Akron as well. A keyword search is most effective to locate them.

Table 1 - Differences in Fields in the Library Record for Biomedical Engineering

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis Field</th>
<th>Other Title Field</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thesis (M.S. in Biomed. Eng.)--University of Akron, Department of Biomedical Engineering, 2004</td>
<td>none</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.S. University of Akron 2011</td>
<td>UA theses (Biomedical Engineering)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. University of Akron 2015</td>
<td>UA dissertations (Engineering-Biomedical Engineering)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Using biomedical engineering as an example, Table 1 shows some inconsistency in the form of these fields. Be sure to choose search terms with this in mind.

OhioLINK Electronic Thesis and Dissertations (ETD)

The Electronic Theses and Dissertations Center contains electronic theses and dissertations from most of the OhioLINK libraries. Most University of Akron theses and dissertations 2005 to present are submitted to the ETD. You can search all items in the ETD or browse by institution and department. You can search for advisor as well.

Worldwide

For other sources, go to Finding Theses and Dissertations in the subject guide for your major or discipline. If you can’t access the thesis or dissertation of interest, order it from interlibrary loan and they will get it if possible.

Other Types of Documents

The Science & Technology Library Guides discuss how to find technical standards, technical reports, and more. For more information, go to the Science & Technology Library Subject Guides.

Bibliographic Managers

Bibliographic managers can be a great time saver when you are writing a paper, especially those writing a thesis or dissertation. They help you organize and store your references. Often, they contain many different citations styles that can be automatically formatted for you. They all have advantages and disadvantages. Pick the one that works best for you, so it is the time saver that it is meant to be.

Additional information is available from our Reference Management Library Guide.

Was this Tutorial Helpful?

Please take a very short survey to improve this tutorial.