Connecting to Online Library Resources Off-Campus

When off-campus, go to the UA Libraries Catalog or Web site 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. 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 the UA 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.
You can perform many searches in our catalog. Most of the time, you will use the keyword or title search. A keyword search will seek search terms in most fields. There is no automatic stemming. For example, the search term, sensor, will find sensor, but won’t find sensors. To find sensor and sensors, you must use an asterisk or *. 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 use a book to quickly look something up, you might want to search eBook databases and Web sites, such as Knovel, Safari, SpringerLink, or Wiley Online Library, directly. These Web sites can be found using the Databases section of the Advanced Search screen or Databases by Title section of the library Web site.

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*.
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>Title</th>
<th>Navigating the hazards: a guide to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Imprint</td>
<td>Washington, DC: National Restaurant Association, 1999</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<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 the OhioLINK in the UA Libraries Catalog and request the item. For the institution, choose “U of Akron” from the dropdown 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 us 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 Web page to check it, 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. From the UA Libraries Catalog, you can search for databases from the advanced search screen. If you know the title of the database that you want, type the beginning of the database name in the textbox and select the search button.

For databases in a subject area, use the dropdown or combo box. By default, select a subject appears as shown in Figure 4. When the dropdown or combo box is expanded, it lists the subjects. Subjects can be very broad like Science and Technology or Health Science and Medicine or subjects can be more specific like Biology, Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, Physics, or Nursing.
Also, you can find a database by title or subject using our Web site. You can use the Science & Technology Library Subject Guides as a starting point too.

**Figure 4. UA Libraries Catalog - Databases Section of the Advanced Screen**

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 covers some subjects better 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 5. Search Example using Web of Science**

Search Result from Web of Science

**Bioremediation of lead-contaminated mine waste by Pararhodobacter sp based on the microbially induced calcium carbonate precipitation technique and its effects on strength of coarse and fine grained sand**

By: Mwandira, Wilson; Nakashima, Kazunori; Kawasaki, Satoru.

ECOLOGICAL ENGINEERING Volume: 109 Pages: 57-64 Part: A Published: DEC 2017

Select the Full Text Finder Button and you will find this article is available for download at the Electronic Journal Center (EJC).
Examples of Databases that use the EBSCO Interface

There are over 100 databases that 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 than its plural form, 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 5 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 6. Search Example using the AND operator from an EBSCO database

For line 1, type geothermal in the textbox and use the default, Select a Field (optional). For line 2, use the default operator, AND, in the combo box. In the text box, type reservoir. Use the default, Select a Field (optional).

A good compromise between a phrase search like “geothermal reservoir” and using the Boolean operator as in Figure 6 is to use the proximity operator directly. It isn’t as broad of a search as in Figure 6 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 3 words apart in any order, so we use N3 between our search terms.

Figure 7. Search Example using the NEAR operator from an EBSCO database

For line 1, type permebil* in the textbox and use the default, Select a Field (optional). For line 2, use the default operator, AND, in the combo box. In the text box, type geothermal N3 reservoir. Use the default, Select a Field (optional).

The search in Figure 7 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 less relevant 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 is a special type that GeoRef has that many other databases don't.

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 Web page. Also, only fields both databases have in common will appear in the dropdown box on the Advanced Search Web page.

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 8. Search Example using GeoRef**

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

**Search Result from GeoRef**

**The geology of Darwin Crater, western Tasmania, Australia** by Howard, Kieren T.  
Subjects: Australasia; Australia; boreholes; breccia; crater fill; Darwin Crater; Darwin glass; deformation; Devonian; Eldon Group; framework silicates; impact craters...

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

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 9. Search Example using MathSciNet

boundary value problem AND green function AND application

Search Result from MathSciNet

Eulerian geometrical optics and fast Huygens sweeping methods for three-dimensional time-harmonic high-frequency Maxwell’s equations in inhomogeneous media
By Qian, Jianliang; Lu, Wangtao; Yuan, Lijun; Luo, Songting; Burridge, Robert. In Multiscale Modeling & Simulation. 14 (no. 2): 595–636
Subjects: Partial differential equations -- Equations of mathematical physics and other areas of application -- PDEs in connection with optics and electromagnetic theory; Optics, electromagnetic theory....

Select the Full Text Finder Button 📖 and you will find this article is available for download from the publisher Web site, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, (SIAM).

Examples of Databases that use the ProQuest Interface

The ProQuest interface contains the database, Materials Science & Engineering Database (contains the specialized database, Copper Technical Reference Library). 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. Only those published open access through and those published from The University of Akron (not all of them) in this database can be downloaded full text. 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.

It differs from EBSCO in that 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 10. Search Example using Material Science & Engineering Database**

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

**Search Result from Materials Science & Engineering Database**

Utilization of Plasma Treated Polymeric Macro-Fibers as Reinforcement in Concrete Constructions

Trejbal, Jan; Fladr, Josef; Kopecký, Lubomír.

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 **Advanced Materials Research** that contains this article. Since we don’t have volume 1144, you might be able to get it by requesting it from interlibrary loan.

**Using the Request through interlibrary loan hyperlink**

If you already have an account, 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. You need to create an account if you don’t have one.

**Creating your Account**

Use the First Time User hyperlink and follow the instructions. After you complete the registration form, you can start requesting right away. You will never need to pay for an article. This service is always free for you.

**Filling out the Interlibrary Loan Request Form**

We will fill out the request form as follows.

Title (of Journal, Conference Proceedings, Anthology): Advanced Materials Research
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. Just log into your account and you can download it. 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. Most 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.