

Geosciences Literature Searching

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Step 1: Know Your Librarian

I am your department's subject liaison at the library. [Contact me](#) with any questions about doing research. I am happy to meet with you individually.

Today you will each receive my business card, with my phone and e-mail information.

Step 2: Determine need

- Are you doing a thorough literature review or trying to find the latest research on a topic?
- Searching for “site remediation” is too broad if you are really interested in leaching rates of heavy metals in soil. Be specific.
- Planning and writing down a research statement before hitting the library resources saves time and frustration later.
- Questions? Talk with your professor, GAs, and [your librarian!](#)

Step 3: Learn About Resources

- UMKC Librarians have created and maintain a [LibGuide for Geosciences](#). This will introduce you to lots of possible resources.
- Many of these sources are:
 - Accurate
 - Authoritative
 - Academically focused
- Check sources individually for peer review!

Step 3: Learn About Resources, cont.

- Choose resources relevant to your area of research.
- Read the “About”-type information in the resource before searching. Know what type of information the search will return.
- Play constructively with the search interface: learn how to broaden and narrow searches before selecting resources!

Step 4: Don't believe everything you read!

- View resources using critical thinking skills
 - What [type of resource](#) is this?
 - Who is the author or authors?
 - Is this a “mainstream” result or “fringe science”?
 - Is the author trying to sell me (or persuade me of) something? Is there bias in the authors' point of view?
- Questions? [Ask your librarian!](#)

Google is great, Google is terrible!

- Google grommet design
 - Get 1.68 million results, with the first page entirely given over to company websites (.com)
- Use Compendex to search grommet design
 - Get 25 results, including “Advances in Environmental Protection of Electrical Interconnections,” a conference paper
- What helps you more?

Step 5: Select Resources

- Read abstracts
- Make resource decisions that support your research statement
- Questions? Ask your professor, and GAs first about scholarly content, then [ask your librarian](#).

Step 6: Use Information Ethically!

- [Plagiarism](#)
- [Copyright](#)
 - Here's a [fun interactive tutorial](#) from Acadia University (Canada)
- Intellectual Property
- Questions? [Ask your librarian!](#)

Are you information literate?

1. Can you determine the nature and scope of your search need?
2. Do you access information effectively and efficiently?
3. Can you evaluate information sources critically?
4. Can you use information effectively in your project?
5. Do you use information with ethical responsibility to other authors and copyright holders?

Congratulations!

*(source – American College & Research Libraries
Standards for Information Literacy)*

Questions?

(I bet you know what's behind this link...)