BIO150- Finding Research Information

Where do I start?

- Scholarly information resources in any subject area – JMU Library Website: http://www.lib.jmu.edu
- Scholarly information resources in BIOLOGY – Biology Subject Guide: http://guides.lib.jmu.edu/biology/
- Specific information for BIO150 - Biology 150 Guide: http://guides.lib.jmu.edu/bio/courseguides/bio250

Off Campus Access

If you connect from off campus, follow instructions on the library web site (http://www.lib.jmu.edu/proxy) to configure your computer to be able to access databases and online journals.

Finding Articles –

On the Biology Subject Guide and the BIO 150 Course Guide, you will see this: “Databases” on the Library Resource tab.

What are databases? Databases are organized sets of information. The databases shown on the Biology Subject Guide and throughout the library web page are gateways to the research literature. Many link directly to the full text of articles.

What about using Google or Google Scholar? These can be great tools for finding online resources, but Google’s main disadvantage in finding research information is that it is not organized to search in a focused way. You waste a lot of time going through results and finding things that look good, but you can’t get to the full text of the article. You can use the “Advanced Search” features to try to get more control, but they are not as flexible as a database like Scopus which was developed specifically to search the Biology research literature.

How do I find an article after finding a citation to it in a database? If there is not a link to the full article in the database, there should be an icon - which will take you to links for JMU subscriptions or alternative ways to get the article. It is also always worth checking quickly on Google Scholar, just copy and paste the article citation into Google, in case someone posted the article on the web.

What if the library does not have the item I need? Request it through Interlibrary Loan. Articles usually come to you as PDFs within two days, but books can take longer, so be sure to plan ahead.

What if I still am having trouble finding what I need? Contact the Science Librarian! Alyssa Valcourt, valcouah@jmu.edu, 540-568-5730

Schedule an Appointment