Information Literacy Program

Library resources and databases for environment and society

Search Smarter
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Objectives

This handbook will assist students in being able to:

- search appropriate databases to find journal articles and conference papers.
- locate journal articles using Library databases including SuperSearch and Scopus.
- locate information from other Library services and Google Scholar.

Library Website

Information resources for discovering and locating information related to environment and society are available from the ANU Library website http://anulib.anu.edu.au/.

Background material

Background material can also help you identify specific angles on your topic that you might wish to explore. Types of background materials include encyclopedias and textbooks.

Here are a few background resources that might help explore your topic.
Encyclopedias

Encyclopedias can be found on the library catalogue and a search done with in the item to find sections on your topic.

- Encyclopedia of Environment and Society [electronic resource]  
  http://library.anu.edu.au/record=b2691040
- Encyclopedia of Geography [electronic resource]  
  http://library.anu.edu.au/record=b3531899
- Encyclopedia of Global Warming and Climate Change [electronic resource]  
  http://library.anu.edu.au/record=b3531900
- Encyclopedia of Sustainability Science and Technology [electronic resource]  
  http://library.anu.edu.au/record=b2691040
- Water encyclopedia [electronic resource]  
  http://library.anu.edu.au/record=b2388576

Subject guides

Many online reference works related to Environment and Society are listed in the Environment and Society subject guide under Reference sources  
http://libguides.anu.edu.au/environment_society
Library Databases

Why use a database? - To locate citations to journal articles (citation database) or the articles themselves (full-text database).

To access all Library databases, select the appropriate letter under **E-resources and databases** on the Library homepage.

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Key databases for environment and society

**Multidisciplinary**

- **Scopus** is an abstract and citation database of research literature and quality web sources. Covering 22,000 peer-reviewed journals from more than 5,000 publishers, 33 million abstracts, results from 386 million scientific web pages and 27 million patent records from 5 patent offices, it provides seamless links to full-text articles and other library resources, with smart tools to track, analyse and visualize research.

- **SuperSearch** is a single search across all of the Library’s print and electronic resources. Click-through to full text where available.
**Subject Specific**

Searchable on the Informit platform:

- **APA-FT (Australian Public Affairs Full Text)** - Australian political, economic, legal, social and cultural affairs.
- **EVA (Environmental Abstracts)** - Environmental protection and management, pollution and environmental assessment in Australia.

Searchable on the Ovid platform:

- **CAB Abstracts** – Agriculture, animal sciences, environment and human ecology, forestry, forest products and agroforestry, management and conservation of natural resources, rural studies and agricultural economics, soils and soil conservation.
- **GeoRef** - Earth sciences, geology, mineralogy, natural resources, energy, water.

**Searching Scopus**

From the Library’s home page ([http://anulib.anu.edu.au](http://anulib.anu.edu.au)) select “S” from the E-resources and databases section

You will be taken to the **Scopus** page.

In the **Basic Search** window, enter your search (eg **sustain** and **(rangelands or croplands) and Australia)**
You will then see your results. Click on the article title to view information on the article.

Click on the article title to view more details about an article of interest. You will then see more information about the article. If you would like to access the article, click on **Find it at ANU** or to view the abstract click **View abstract**.

You can also view which articles have cited this article since its publication, **Cited by 3 documents** and **Related documents**, which shows articles with similar bibliographies to the selected article.
Find it at ANU will open in a new window or tab and give options for obtaining the full text.

Searching SuperSearch
SuperSearch has a search window on the main Library website. Enter your search. You can enter keywords without Boolean operators, and this is how Supersearch works best.

Example: coal seam gas groundwater

You will then see your results. Use the options at the side to refine your search.
After a successful search the first group of results is displayed. The most relevant records in the database appear first. The default record format displays the title, authors, source fields and an extract from the article.

**Locate documents:** SuperSearch is able to recognize the ANU’s subscriptions with most journal publishers. In these cases **Full Text Online** link indicates that we should have access to the electronic full-text of the selected item. Preview the whole record and read the abstract by clicking on the word **Preview**.

Cite, email, save and referencing software options are available.

If the **Full Text Online** text is not shown, click on the **Check Availability** link to open a new window to the ANU Library Catalogue and perform a search for the title of the journal (or book) title in the catalogue.

**SuperSearch hints:**

- SuperSearch works like *Google* by default. Type any words or phrases into the search box. SuperSearch will interpret your search as both words and phrases and rank the results by relevance.
- Use quotation marks for a phrase search in SuperSearch instead of a combination of words e.g. *"future heat stress"*.
- Use AND, OR and NOT between words to force Supersearch to combine individual words. These search operators must be written in **All CAPS**, e.g. *feeding AND “Orange-bellied parrots”*.
- Use parenthesis to ensure that a search containing different operators performs as intended e.g. *"low emission vehicle*” AND implementation AND (ACT OR Australian Capital Territory OR Canberra)*
Searching APA-FT and EVA

From the Library’s home page (http://anulib.anu.edu.au) use the alphabetical E-resources and databases links to navigate to the database you’d like to search. APAFT (Australian Public Affairs – Full Text) is selected. You can change databases and select multiple databases.

Once you’re in the change databases screen, you can select all the databases you’d like to search simultaneously (e.g. APAFT and EVA – Environmental abstracts – note EVA is an archive) then click Update Selection.

Enter your search, using Boolean operators and truncation as appropriate.
You will then see the brief results screen. Click on **Complete Record** for more information about the reference.

The complete record can provide hints for other useful search terms, especially the subject or descriptor fields. To find the article, click on the link to full text or the **Find it at ANU** link.
Searching CAB Abstracts and GeoRef

From the Library’s home page (http://anulib.anu.edu.au) select “G” or “C” on the E-resources and databases list and click through on the appropriate link.

Select the databases you’d like to search from the Ovid SP list.

GeoRef and CAB abstracts have a subject thesaurus to assist your searching. To use it, enter a single word or phrase in the search window. DON’T use Boolean logic.

Enter your search term. Ensure that you map your search to subject headings to ensure you get all relevant articles.
You will then see a list of subject headings related to your search. Click on the subject heading to see what it covers, as well as any related terms.

If any of the related terms look relevant, you can select them and use the Boolean pull down to **AND** or **OR** the subject headings together.

You will then see your results for those subject headings.

We can now undertake new searches to combine with our original search, for example looking for the subject heading Australian Capital Territory. Once you’ve completed your searches, combine them using **AND**.
Scroll down for results or select **Display**.

You’ll then see your search results. Click on **Complete Reference** to view more information about the article, including an abstract if available.

To find the full-text of the article, click on the **Find it at ANU** button, or click on the **Library Holdings** link if it’s available.
How do I find an article if the database doesn’t have full-text and I can’t get it through Find it at ANU?

Once you have found a relevant article and its citation (aka reference) - you can check the Library catalogue for the title of the journal in which the article appears, to find:

- The online version of the journal, OR
- The print version of the journal and its location on the shelf or request a scan from the ANU Print Repository.

A typical citation/reference

Short-term impact of sulphate mine dump rehabilitation on the quality of surrounding groundwater and river water in Mazowe District, Zimbabwe. **NYAMADZANO G, MAPANDA F, NYAMUGAFATA P, WUTA M, NYAMANGARA J**


Google Scholar

**Google Scholar** [http://scholar.google.com](http://scholar.google.com)

Google Scholar is Google’s way of filtering out “non-scholarly” material available online. It’s great for “grey” literature (e.g. conference papers). To use the advanced search options, just click the arrow at the right of the search box.

Google Scholar enables you to search specifically for scholarly literature, including peer-reviewed papers, theses, books, preprints, abstracts and technical reports from all broad areas of research.

If you are using Google Scholar Off-campus, make sure you go to Settings>Library Links to set your affiliation to the ANU- Find it at ANU.
Use Google Scholar to find articles from a wide variety of academic publishers, professional societies, preprint repositories and universities, as well as scholarly articles available across the web.

Many of the articles indexed in Google Scholar without freely available online links may be available via the ANU Library. If there is no Find it at ANU link, look the title of the journal up in the Library catalogue.
Frequently Asked Questions

Can I access the databases and electronic journals from off-campus?

Yes! You have to log into Virtual, the ANU’s reverse proxy server. Head to http://virtual.anu.edu.au and log in using your university ID and ISIS password.

Contacts

Need more help? Feel free to ask at the Hancock Information Desk:

Hancock Information Desk
science.library@anu.edu.au
02 6125 3517 (x53517)