Outline

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/geog_grad

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(2) Advanced Searching Tips
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  - Cited Reference Searching
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Graduate Student Library Guide

Library Resources & Databases for Geography Graduate Students, September 2016

http://www.library.yorku.ca/web/ask-services/graduate-student-support/
Welcome to York University's subject research guide for Geography. This guide will introduce you to the processes and resources needed to successfully complete your papers and assignments.

Getting Started
- Dictionaries & encyclopedias
- Books
- Gazetteers

Finding Articles
- Journal articles
- Newspaper articles

Finding Maps and Data
- Maps
- Geospatial Data
- Data and Statistics

Advanced Research
- Theses
- Associations & organizations

Writing Your Paper
- Compiling a Bibliography
- Zotero
- Mendeley

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/geography

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Other Research Guides

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/

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Advanced Searching Tips
**Example**

Environmental contamination due to oil sand extraction in Alberta

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key Concepts</th>
<th>Synonyms:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oil Sands</td>
<td>“Tar Sand” OR Bitumen OR “Bituminous Sand” OR “Oil Sands”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contamination</td>
<td>Contamination OR Pollution OR ?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alberta</td>
<td>Alberta OR Athabaska OR “Fort McMurray”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extraction</td>
<td>Extraction OR Removal</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Example

Exploitation of temporary foreign workers employed on farms in Canada

Key Concepts:

Temporary Foreign Workers
Exploitation
Canada
Farms

Synonyms:

“Temporary Foreign Workers” OR “Guest Workers” OR “Migrant Workers” OR “Migrant Labour”
Exploitation OR Mistreatment
Canada or Ontario ...
Farming or Agriculture or Agricultural
Advanced Searching Tips

- Use quotations to combine terms “oil sands” and use like terms
- Nesting with ANDs / ORs
- Truncating with * (ex. Contamin*)

![Advanced Searching Tips Example](image)
Advanced Searching Tips

Q: How do I search for a variant spelling of a term?
A: You can use a wildcard search, but the symbols you use depend upon the database!

Usually, “?” or “!” symbol replaces a character:
Example:
organi?ation = organization or organisation
ne?t = next or nest or neat

Usually, “#” or “$” symbols are used for variant spellings with additional characters:
Example:
labo#r = labour or labor
labo!$r = labour or labor

Tip: Consult the search help section a database for wildcard symbols
Advanced Searching Tips

Q: How do I search by Geographic Area

A: Depends upon the database!

Some databases index geography terms, such as Geobase, Georef, or Environment Complete

Example Databases: J-Stor

WARNING
Some databases don’t index geographic locations. When you do a search for London, you may get publications published in London, or publications about London Ontario, or London England.
Zotero
Your favourite database may not be the best one for your search….so use more than one!
Library Catalogue

https://www.library.yorku.ca/find/Search/Advanced

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Finding Journal Articles

Finding Journal Articles at York Libraries

To identify journal articles on a specific topic, use a periodical database (also known as a "periodical index" or an "article database"). There are many different periodical databases available through York University Libraries. Some are subject-specific (e.g. Sociological Abstracts, PsycINFO), while others are multi-disciplinary (e.g. Expanded Academic ASAP, CBCA Complete).

For business articles, see Guide to Finding Business Articles.

STEPS:

1. Select an appropriate database
2. Search the database
3. Find the articles
4. Scholarly vs. popular articles
5. How to identify a peer-reviewed journal

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/journalarticles
Discipline Specific Databases

Strengths

• Goes beyond journal articles, some databases include monographs, conference publications
• Provides abstracts and deep “indexing” of publications
• Controlled vocabulary/thesaurus terms
• Excellent for comprehensive searching a specific topic as it relates to a discipline
• Excellent for advance searching methods
• Links to e-version of articles in other databases
Physical Geography & Related Discipline

- **Georef** (Physical Geography, Geology, Geomorphology..)
- **Geobase** (Physical Geography and Human Geography)
- **Biological Abstracts** (Ecology, Botany, Zoology, Forestry etc.
- **SciFinder** (Geochemistry, Soil Chemistry, Organic Chemistry etc.
- **Environment Complete** (Physical Geography, Human Geography, Environmental Assessment and Evaluation etc.)
Human/Cultural Geography Databases and Related Discipline Databases

- **GeoRef** (Physical Geography)
- **Geobase** (Physical and Cultural Geography)
- **Environment Complete** (Physical / Cultural Geography / Environmental Science & Studies & Policy)
- **Sociological Abstracts** (Cultural Geography / Methods / Sociology)
- **Urban Studies Abstracts** (Urban Studies/ Methods / Urban Geography)
- **International Political Science Abstracts** (Political Geography, Political Science)
General Databases

- Excellent for getting a broad sense of what is available, but not recommended for comprehensive searching on a topic
- Basic indexing of search terms but no subject specific “thesaurus/vocabularies”
- Good for getting direct access to journal articles
- May not contain abstracts for articles
- May not capture each journal for a discipline or topic

Top “General” Databases
- Scholars Portal Search
- JSTOR
- Web of Science
- Proquest Databases
- Google Scholar
Cited Reference Searching

Cited reference searching can tell you who has cited (referred to) previously published works. This allows you to:

• find more recent articles which update earlier research
• find responses to an article
• see how influential an article or book has been
• identify articles on the same topic as the original work

Cited Reference searching can be done in many databases. However, the three databases listed below are particularly effective for this purpose. They search for cited references in journal articles. Each database indexes (or covers) different journals or other pools of content, such as conference proceedings. As a result, if being comprehensive is important, you will want to consult all three.

Citation Searching Databases:  
1. Web of Science  
2. Scopus  
3. Google Scholar

More about Cited Reference Searching:  
http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/citedref
Impact Reports

**Journal impact** metrics measure the importance of a journal in a particular field relative to other journals in the same field. There are several different metrics employed to measure this relative importance:
- [Journal Citation Reports](http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/content.php?pid=282644&sid=2328792) (from Web of Science)
- Eigenfactor
- Harzing's Publish or Perish

**Author impact** metrics purport to measure an author's impact relative to other authors working within similar fields. Several metrics are available for measuring author impact. Common tools for measuring author impact are:
- Web of Science
- Harzing's Publish or Perish

**A warning**: Impact metrics are controversial and do not necessarily give an accurate picture of the impact or usefulness of a particular journal or the research output of a particular scholar.

More about Impact Reports:

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Library Lifesavers

SPARK
Style Guides & Citation Managers
Creating Links to E-Resources
Lifesaver: SPARK

SPARK is your guide to successful academic papers.
SPARK modules are:
- 8 - 10 minutes each
- Focus on research, writing and learning
- Include examples, templates, videos and more
SPARK can help at any point in the preparation of your paper.
To begin, select a module title from either the Getting Started, Exploring or Pulling It Together tabs above. Click to open.

http://www.yorku.ca/spark/

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Lifesaver: Effective Reading Strategies

Academic Reading

Reading in an academic context is different from everyday reading. Academic reading requires a more active, probing and recursive strategy than does recreational reading. It is an essential skill for completing a written assignment.

Reading strategically is integral to the process of understanding your topic, finding research materials, and developing your ideas.

Academic reading involves layers of:

- asking questions
- reflecting on relationships among parts of the text
- interpreting meaning
- making connections with other readings
- refining your topic and purpose
Lifesaver : Style Guides

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/styleguides

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Lifesaver: Creating Links to E-Resources

http://researchguides.library.yorku.ca/eresources

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Help!!

• Graduate Student Library Support Guide

• Live text chat with a Librarian

• Drop-In Assistance @ Steacie and Scott Library

• Book an appointment with Rosa rorlan@yorku.ca
  Tel: 416-736-2100 ext. 88863 😊
Questions?

Rosa Orlandini
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