Are You a STEM Student?
RESEARCH SKILLS TIP SHEET

NEED HELP CITING?
(We can help with that.)

- Try our resource [Research & Documentation Online](#)
  - For MLA, APA, Chicago, & CSE
- Consider attending a RefWorks (bibliographic management tool) workshop!
  - Here’s our [Fall schedule of workshops](#).
  - Look at Additional Critical Resources on our [Research Guides home page](#) for RefWorks help, Research & Documentation Online, and more!
- Consider chatting, calling, or visiting (on the fly or by appointment) – find out more on our [Ask A Librarian page](#).

NEED TO FIND ARTICLES?
(We can help with that, too.) Here’s what we went over in the session:

- [Google Scholar](#): See powerful search strategies below for more on this tool! In general, great to use when you’re not at all sure where to start!
- [SciVerse/ScienceDirect](#): Multidisciplinary and holds broad coverage of many science disciplines – most resources will be 1999-current – great for when you need contemporary research on a topic!
- Want more STEM-my databases? (Who doesn’t?)

See our [All Databases](#) page

- Sciences
  - Engineering
- Biology
- Technology & Biotechnology
- Physics
  - Chemistry & Chemical Engineering
  - Mathematics & Statistical Methods
  - Earth Sciences

- Want non-science databases that will take on STEM topics? Try these:
  - Government
  - Business & Economics
  - Medicine & Health
  - Law

Based on a Libraries presentation from October 4, 2013, led by Laureen P. Cantwell, lcantwell@memphis.edu
ENJOY POWERFUL SEARCH STRATEGIES?

(We’re all over that.)

➢ Remember:
  o AND, OR, and NOT often need to be capitalized in our databases
  o Use parentheses when OR’ing several phrases
  o Try an * ! or ? as a wildcard (truncator)
    Example: (“Bill Nye” OR “science guy”) AND television –“reality TV”
    Example: math* AND (fun OR entertaining) -ridiculous

➢ In Google Scholar, you can try a few customized strategies:
  o The minus sign (−) can be used instead of NOT
    ▪ Example: “black hole” AND “outer space” –Armageddon
  o The tilde (~) can be used to find synonyms
    ▪ Example: ~Armageddon –movie –“Ben Affleck”
  o Go into Settings to connect your Google Scholar work with RefWorks
  o Go into Settings >> Library Links to facilitate connecting your searches to the University Libraries 😊
  o Use “Cited by” and “Related articles” to easily find more search results related to your topic or a particular article/book you like!

➢ Don’t disregard the power of limits:
  o Lots of search results? Try limiting by years, by scholarly/peer-reviewed sources, and/or by full-text accessibility.
  o Too few search results? Think about Family Feud – you may not have hit upon the KEY words for your research topic, or you may have (accidentally?) typed in your entire topic sentence, or there may be typos. Remember to think, search, pause, reflect, and refine.

Need assistance? See your STEM liaisons!

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