NARROWING THE ONLINE SEARCH!

EGCC Website (egcc.edu) > Students > Library

Type your search into the search box – click Search

Click the search button – and retrieve a HUGE amount of results for this search:

**Search Results: 1 - 10 of 2,930,167**
Almost 3 million hits are retrieved from this one search – too many to look at all of them – too many to even skim the list!

The list has to be narrowed down in numbers to make it manageable and useful for you.

There are two basic ways to do that.

a) Construct a more **focused search** by adding search terms.

b) Use the **limiting functions** in the left hand navigation bar of the results screen.
A) A more **focused search** can be constructed in the original search box by adding additional keywords to the search.

1) Add **effects** to “**global warming**” and reduce your results to a little over a million hits. Use quotation marks around phrases.

2) Add “sea level” to the previous search terms – see what a difference this makes? 138,029 hits this time.

These results include all types of materials available from OhioLINK. You will want to limit your search further to identify the ones available to you online. Use the limiting functions in the left hand navigation pane to do this.

B) Using the **limiting functions** in the left hand navigation pane is the second way to reduce the number of your results and narrow your search topic.

★★ Specifying **Full Text** when searching will ensure you can read the content of your results.

The full text results will be retrieved in many formats that include e-books or links to articles that can be read on screen or printed. E-books are usually difficult to print in their entirety, but usually you can easily print one page to use for research purposes.
Under **Refine Results** on the left hand side of the **Results** page you will see options to limit your search. The most commonly used are highlighted below.
Mark the **Full Text** box, mark the box for **Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals** (these are articles reviewed by experts in the field) and move the **slider bar** to select the date range for your articles or books. *(Click on the slider bar and drag it to your chosen date.)*

Results are now showing 27,000 hits.

**Search Results: 1 - 10 of 27,000**

Look down a little further and limit by source type.

The number of results decreases further:

**Search Results: 1 - 10 of 26,198**

This is vastly different from the almost 3 million hits retrieved initially. The search is now well focused. Scan through the lists to find articles that will support the thesis statement of your paper, and print or save them before you start to write.

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