

Optimize your research with these helpful search strategies. It can be difficult to find the information you need in the ever-growing sea of resources. Test out these tips and make your search process easier.

Tip #1: Use Facets

Facets or faceted searching is a method of applying filters to your keyword searches. When you add facets, you tell a database more specific information about what you are looking for.

Our catalog displays facets in the left sidebar of your search results page. You can check boxes to apply them to your results.



Availability 

- Available online
- Peer-reviewed Journals
- Open Access
- Held at library

Resource Type 

- Articles (244,931)
- Dissertations (36,793)
- Reviews (23,160)
- Show More
- Newspapers search >

Creation Date 

From 1980 To 2022 Refine

Tip #2: Boolean Logic

Boolean logic is a system of showing relationships between search terms using keywords and symbols known as operators. These operators limit, widen, and define your search leading to more relevant results. Here is a brief introduction to some of the most useful operators:

| OPERATOR | EXAMPLE | RESULTS |
|----------|---------------|---|
| AND | Cats AND Dogs | Searches for sources with BOTH terms. This decreases your results. |
| OR | Cats OR Dogs | Searches for sources with EITHER term. This increases your results. |
| NOT | Cats NOT Dogs | Finds sources that DO NOT contain the word "Dogs". This specifies and narrows your results. |

Tip #3: Connect with Us

For additional research tips and tricks, connect with a friendly library staff member. There are a few ways to connect with us:

- Visit the Information Desk: visit us during regular library hours or give us a call at (202) 319-5070.
- [Email a Librarian](#): Submit questions 24/7 and receive an email reply the next business day or sooner.
- [Connect with a Subject Librarian](#): Subject librarians provide in-depth research assistance. They can help you develop a research strategy, guide you through finding an article or book, and help you use citation tools. They are available to meet over Zoom, over the phone, or by email.

CIRCULATION DESK: 202-319-5060 • REFERENCE DESK: 202-319-5070

HOURS

| | |
|-------------------|-------------|
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| Friday | 8am - 8pm |
| Saturday | 10am - 5pm |
| Sunday | 11am - 11pm |



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