

Hi! This is Brittany O'Neill, your Information Literacy Librarian at Randall Library. In this video, we're going over how to use the search box on the library's website to find sources for your research assignment. You may not realize it already, but you do research every day! When you open a weather app to check for the chance of rain, or do a Google search while you're watching a movie to figure out where you've seen that actor before, you're choosing appropriate tools to answer your questions, and that's research! We just need to apply the skills you already have to an academic context.

We'll start on the library's homepage. This search box here searches most of the content we have in the library, so it's a great way to cast a wide net when you're searching. There are other ways you can begin your search, such as searching in a subject-specific database, but for today, we'll start broad.

Let's say my topic is on hurricanes in North Carolina. I'm going to enter my keywords directly into the search box: hurricanes AND North Carolina. The search strategy we're using here, a basic keyword search, will pull up anywhere those terms show up in places like the title, the abstract (which is a summary for articles), or the table of contents in a book. By putting "AND" in between my keywords, I'm searching for only results that mention both of these concepts. I'll hit search...

And here, we get our search results. You'll see that our results are organized in blocks by source type, such as scholarly articles, books, and news. This search pulls up lots of different kinds of content, which you can see more of by clicking on "see all results" to zoom into results of one type.

For today, we'll dig into the scholarly articles. Click on "see all results" under that section.

Now we can see all the results (more than 1000 on my topic) that the search has already filtered out to only include scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. Let's take a look at some of these items. This first result is on hurricane recovery in North Carolina, and that sounds relevant to my research, so let's make sure I have access to it!

Databases, like this search, are just bases where data live. Some of that data is the whole article, and some of it is just indexed, meaning the article's description is available, but you'd need to request access to read the whole thing. You can tell if we have immediate access online because you'll see a green Full Text Online icon. This 5th result is an example of something we don't have. We can get you access to just about anything, but since we have lots of other results we can use right now, we'll check out the other options.

Our first result has that green light, so click on that icon to access the article. Now, you're able to read the whole article, download it, email it, or generate a citation – just use that as a starting point, though. Anything machine-generated can get things wrong. I can tell this is a scholarly article because it has all the hallmarks of what one looks like – an abstract, volume and issue

numbers, a methods section, and references. To find more scholarly articles, simply navigate back to your search results to keep exploring.

If you have questions about searching, we're happy to help! Visit the [Get Help](#) page for more information. Happy searching!