



Different Ways to Search for Different Materials

Journal Sources

1. Known title:



- a. Path: wvc.edu/library > periodical databases > journal portal > find e-journals by title or ISSN
- b. Strategy: I use “title contains all words.” Enter the words you know from the title, or enter a title keyword; truncation works (“math*”).
- c. Results: the results will show which databases provide access and the dates covered. Click on the database to get the electronic equivalent of looking at a shelf-full of the title. Most databases allow you to search that title.

2. Browsing:

- a. Path: wvc.edu/library > periodical databases > journal portal > browse e-journals by subject
- b. Strategy: you can do a title keyword search as described above, or you can do a subject search. Select “physical sciences and mathematics” from the dropdown menu, then select the mathematics area you want to explore. The numbers indicate the number of journals to which you have access within that subject heading. There IS duplication of titles across subject headings.
- c. Results: the results will show which databases provide access and the dates covered. Click on the database to get the electronic equivalent of looking at a shelf-full of the title. Most databases allow you to search that title.

3. Federated searching (initial identification of names):

- a. Path: wvc.edu/library > “new front page” > select the “general” and “science & agriculture” categories
- b. Strategy: mathematician and (biography OR obituary)
 - i. For the librarians in the crowd, for some reason, writing the search like that got better results than constructing the same search with the “advanced” screen.
- c. Results: you may want to begin by checking the “full text” box. Note that the “clustered results” allow you to narrow the results several useful ways.

4. Federated searching (to find journal / newspaper information on one person):

- a. Path: wvc.edu/library > “new front page” > select the “general” and “science & agriculture” categories
- b. Strategy: name and (biography OR obituary)
 - i. OK to do the name in direct order, without quotes: albert Einstein (biography OR obituary)
- c. Results: these being journal and newspaper sources, many – most – of the results for historical figures will be book reviews. For modern folks you’ll find obituaries. See the next two ideas . . .



Books



- a. Path: wvc.edu/library > “new front page” > select the “books” category
- b. Strategy:
 - i. For popular figures, search the name as a title; for lesser known figures, search the name as a keyword
 1. Adolphe Quetelet returned no results when searched as a title but a nice handful of results when searched as a subject.
- c. Results: hopefully, you’ll find a couple of WVC library books and some e-books!

Reference materials (initial identification of names)



- a. Path: wvc.edu/library > “new front page” > search by database > click on the words “CREDO Reference” to enter that database
- b. Strategy: search for “mathematician” (all subjects). Click on the “biography” entry type to refine the results, and/or click on “person” to limit by name.
- c. Results: the important thing to point out to students is the title of the reference work; works like chronologies and dictionaries will have very brief entries, whereas the encyclopedias and other sources will have more.

Reference materials (known name)

- a. Path: wvc.edu/library > “new front page” > select the “reference” category
- b. Strategy: name, as a title search
 - a. No need to use quotes
- c. Results: the important thing to know is; works like chronologies and dictionaries will have very brief entries, whereas the encyclopedias and other sources will have more.

Need Help?

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