GRACE LIBRARY PRESENTS

Research Foundations

A guide for first-year students

This module is an introduction to the basics of college-level research. At different points, you will be asked to answer some basic questions to test your learning. This exercise should take about 20-30 minutes.

- What Is Research?
- Why Do Research?
- Research Is Formalized Curiosity
- Research Is a Process
- Broad to Narrow
- Types of Sources
- Grace Library's Website
- Search Results

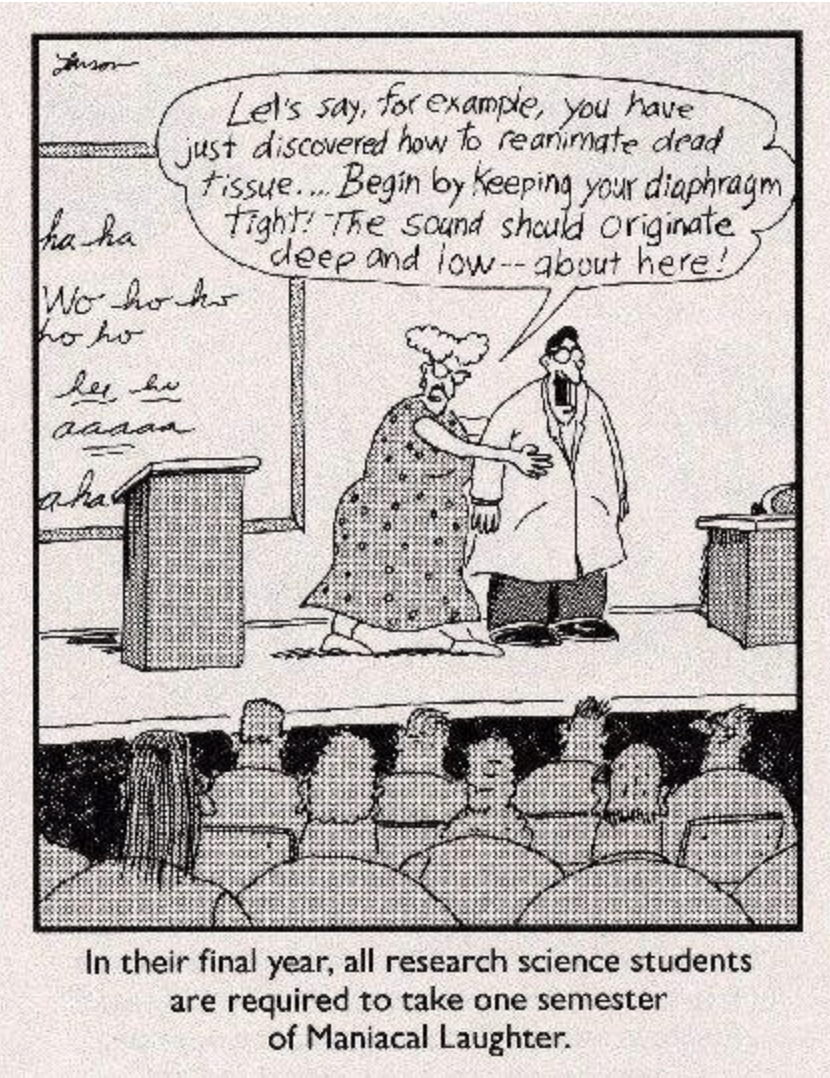
- Effective Searches
- Search Steps
- Search Filters
- Plagiarism and Citations
- Examples of Plagiariasm
- What Is a Citation?
- Generating Citations
- Thank You
- Academic Integrity Policy
- Assessment

What Is Research?

Defining the Term

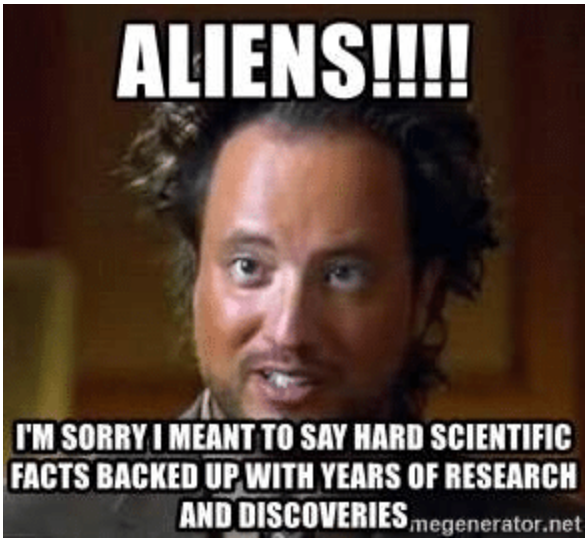
Research is the process of finding out more about something. If you want to get technical, then here's how the Cambridge Online Dictionary defines it: "a detailed study of a subject in order to discover information or to achieve a new understanding of it."

When you do research, you're acting like an investigator. Maybe you don't know much about the subject—and that's OK! If you already knew everything there was to know about the subject, then there'd be no reason to look into it.



The Far Side, Gary Larson

Why Do Research?



What Problem Do You Want to Solve?

Have you ever come across something and thought, "I'd like to know more about that"? Of course you have! The easiest way to explain why we do research is this: to learn more about something. Instead of taking a stab in the dark, the research process enables you to collect and examine evidence. Once you've done that, you can use that evidence to draw conclusions on the subject. For instance...

1. You come across something online and you're not sure how true it is.
2. You get an assignment and you don't know where to start.
3. You need to get some information for a project at work.

CONTINUE

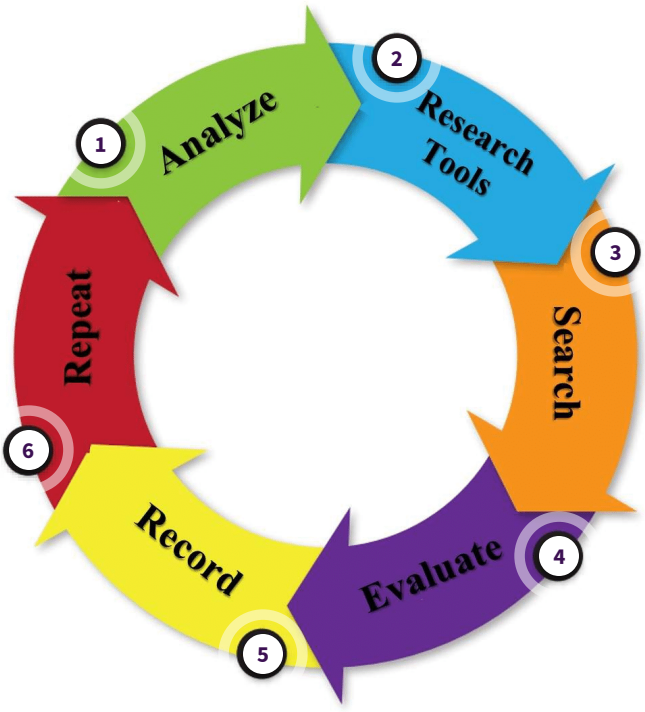
Research Is Formalized Curiosity

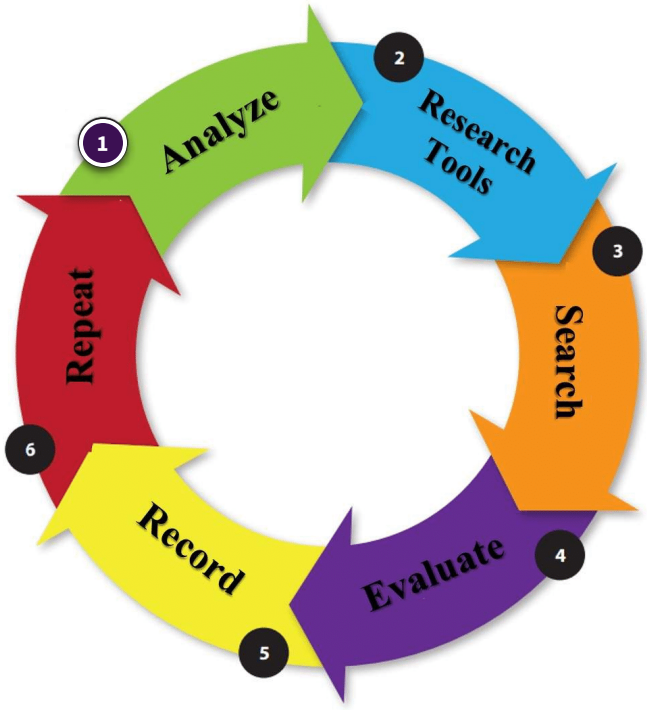
"Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose."

Zora Neale Hurston

Research Is a Process

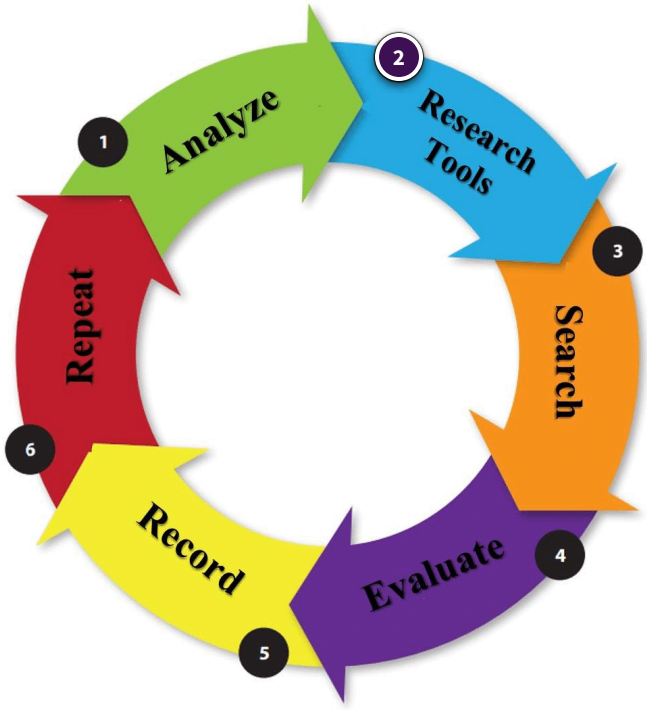
Take a look at the diagram below. This is an example of how the research process works. Click on the "+" symbols for more information!





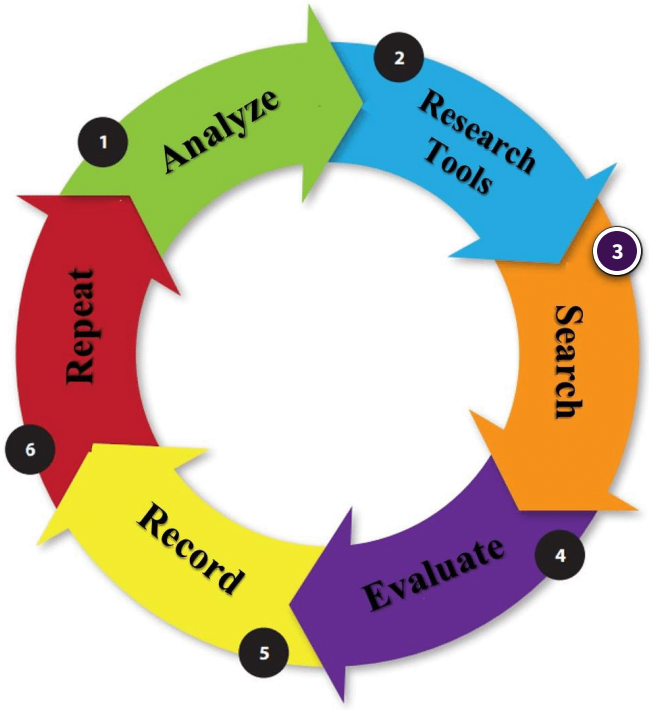
What is your topic?

What are you looking into? The first step you want to take is figuring out why you're investigating this subject. How familiar are you with the subject? Do some preliminary digging around in order to learn more about it. This will help you to narrow the scope of your project, which will take some of the pressure off of your search.



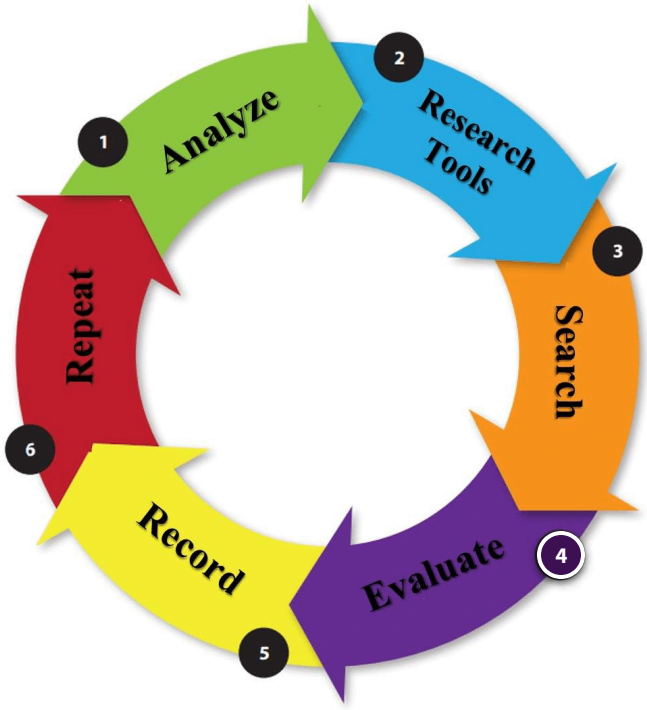
Where should you look?

You wouldn't use ***People*** magazine to find out about chemistry. The best sources for your research depend on what you're investigating. Once you've figured out what you're researching, it's time to find the right tools. Thankfully, Grace Library can help! Just ask a librarian, or head directly to our website (www.carlow.edu/library) for more information!



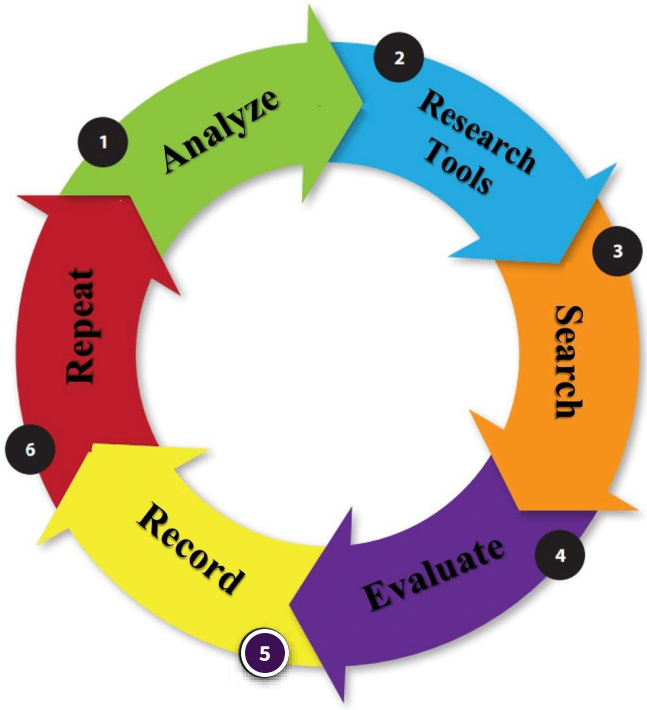
How do you find it?

It's tempting to go with the first results on Google, but that's unlikely to give you the best results. Once you've figured out what you're looking for, use the library's search tools to conduct your first search! One of the cool things is that you can limit your search to specific subjects, date ranges, and more!



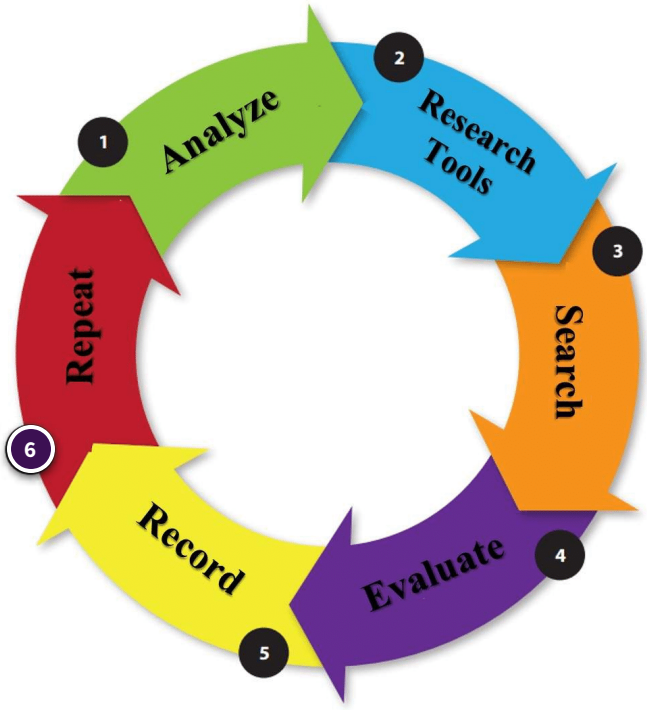
What did you find?

Not all information is created equal! Now that you've found some initial sources, it's time to review them. Were they written by **credible** people? Is the information **accurate**? Take a closer look at your sources before doing anything else!



Where did you find it?

All that work you've done is in part based on other people's research! That takes time and effort. Don't forget to keep a list of your sources, where you found them, and any information you're using in your work. Above all, give credit where credit is due!

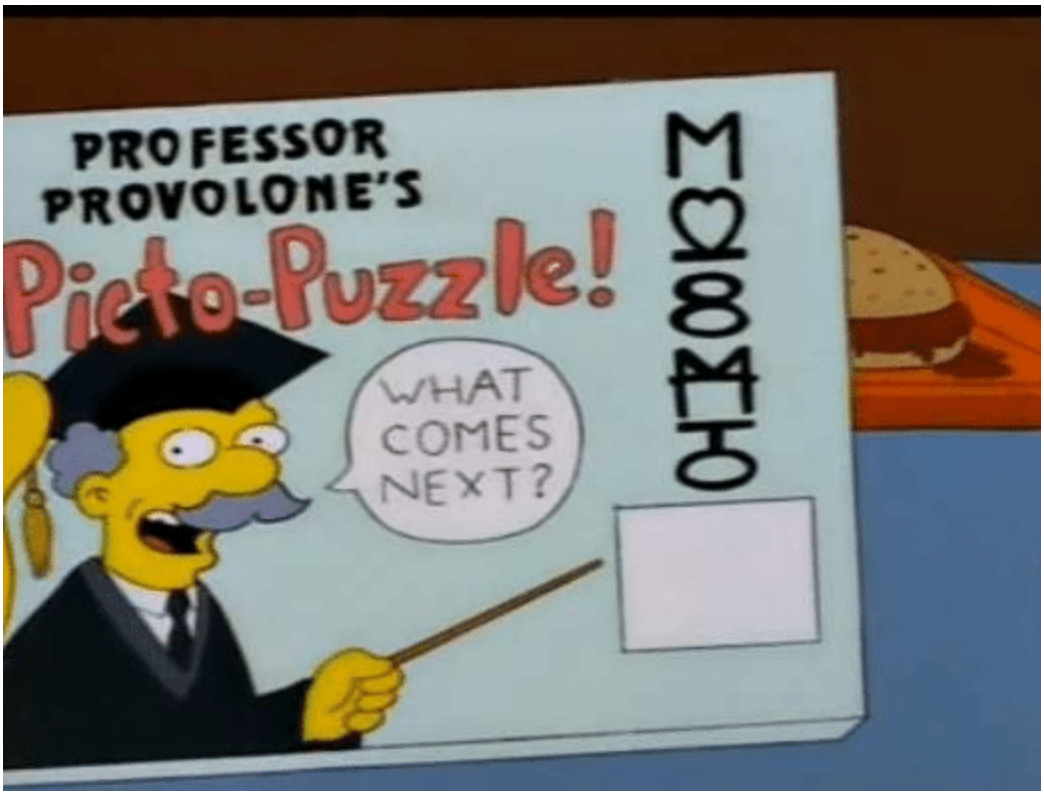


When in doubt...

Just because you've found a few sources in your first search doesn't mean the process is over! Research is a cycle; it doesn't stop at one or two sources. Now that you've finished your first research cycle, do another search! Is there anything you missed when you did it the first time? Have you learned anything else in the process?

CONTINUE

What's the correct order of the research cycle?



Step One	Analyze
Step Two	Research Tools
Step Three	Search
Step Four	Evaluate
Step Five	Record

Step Six

Repeat

SUBMIT

Broad to Narrow

Broad to Narrow

Sometimes the question you're researching is too broad. Here are some tips for narrowing it down into something more manageable! Just click on the flashcards for more information.

Identify

What are you researching? Here's a handy formula for narrowing down your question. Start by saying "I am researching _____ (topic)" and move to the next step!

Explain

Why are you doing this research? Add this to the first part in the formula: "...because I want to find

out _____ (issue/question)..." Once you've done that, move to the next step!

Purpose

What's the project's goal? Add this third part to the formula: "...in order to _____ (goal/purpose)." Once you've done that, there's just one last step!

Combine

Once you've broken up the question, put the results together: "I am researching _____ because I want to find out _____ in order to _____." This should make whatever you're looking into much more approachable!

CONTINUE

Now that we've gone over the steps for narrowing down your topic, let's make sure you know the correct order. Go ahead and match the right flashcard to the right step! Just drag and drop the items on the top and place them where you think they should go. Don't worry! You won't be graded on this.

Step One

Identify

Step Two

Explain

Step Three

Purpose

Step Four

Combine

Types of Sources

The Adventures of Tintin, Hergé

Different Resources for Different Needs

Depending on what you're trying to find out, you want to check different resources. Each category listed here covers a pretty broad range of information. For college-level work and above, you're going to want to stick with professional and scholarly journals, academic books, and any other resources your instructor wants you to use. If you're not sure how to find something, then feel free to ask a librarian! We're glad to help however we can.

Depending on what you're trying to find out, you're going to want to check different resources.

CONTINUE

Now that we've introduced the different types of sources you'll come across, try this activity. See if you can match the resource to the larger category it belongs to!

Social Media

Facebook	**Tumblr**
Twitter	**Instagram**

Popular Magazines

Rolling Stone

People

Vogue

Good Housekeeping

Professional Journals

Journal of Academic Librarianship

Journal of Professional Nursing

Chronicle of Higher Education

Advertising Age (Ad Age)

Scholarly Journals

College English

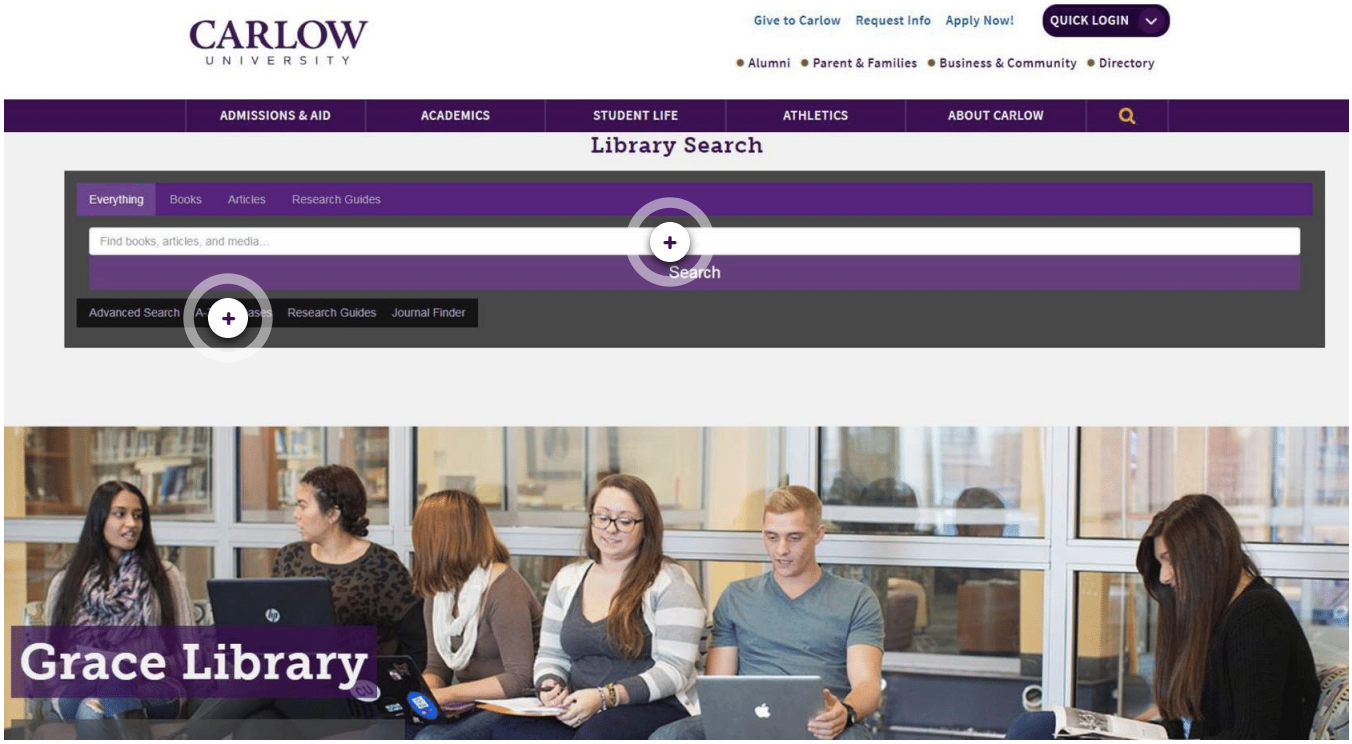
Journal of Philosophy

Journal of Applied Psychology

American Historical Review

Grace Library's Website

CONTINUE


CARLOW
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Request Info
Apply Now!
QUICK LOGIN
Alumni
Parent & Families
Business & Community
Directory
ADMISSIONS & AID
ACADEMICS
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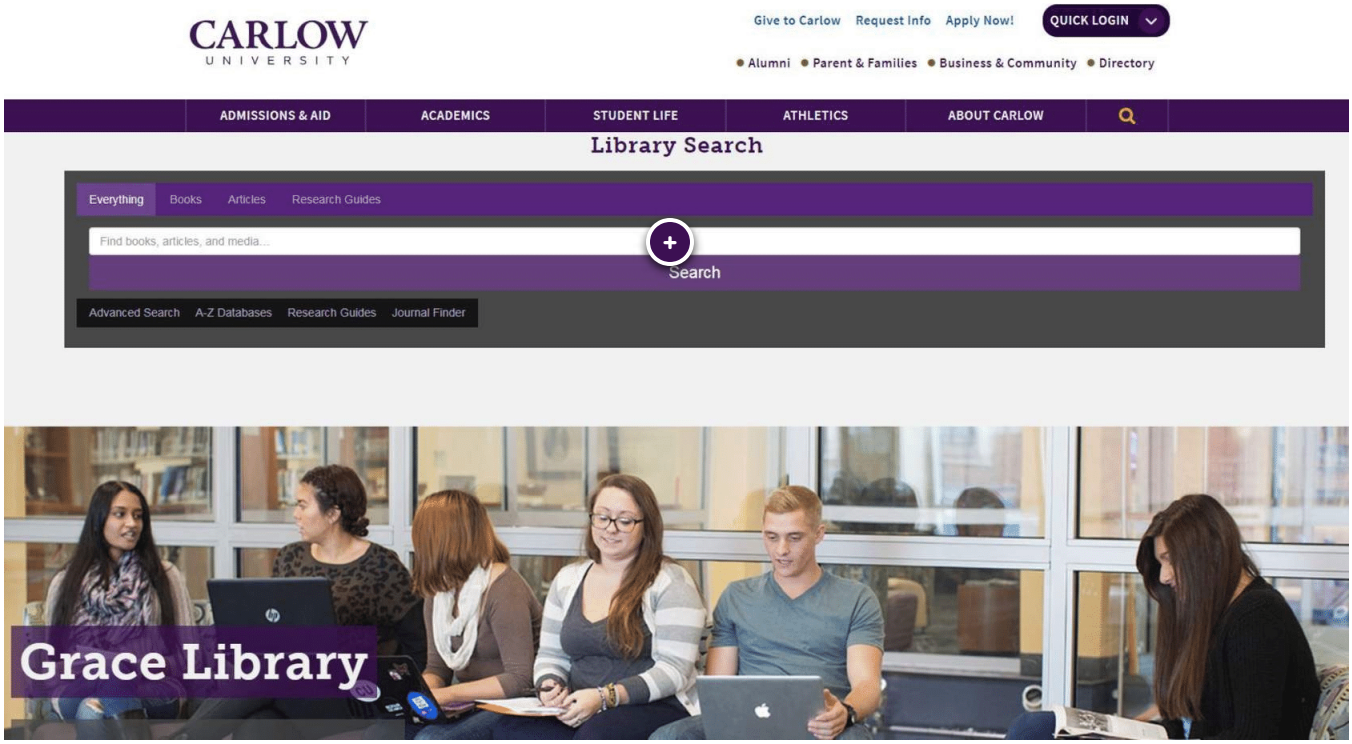
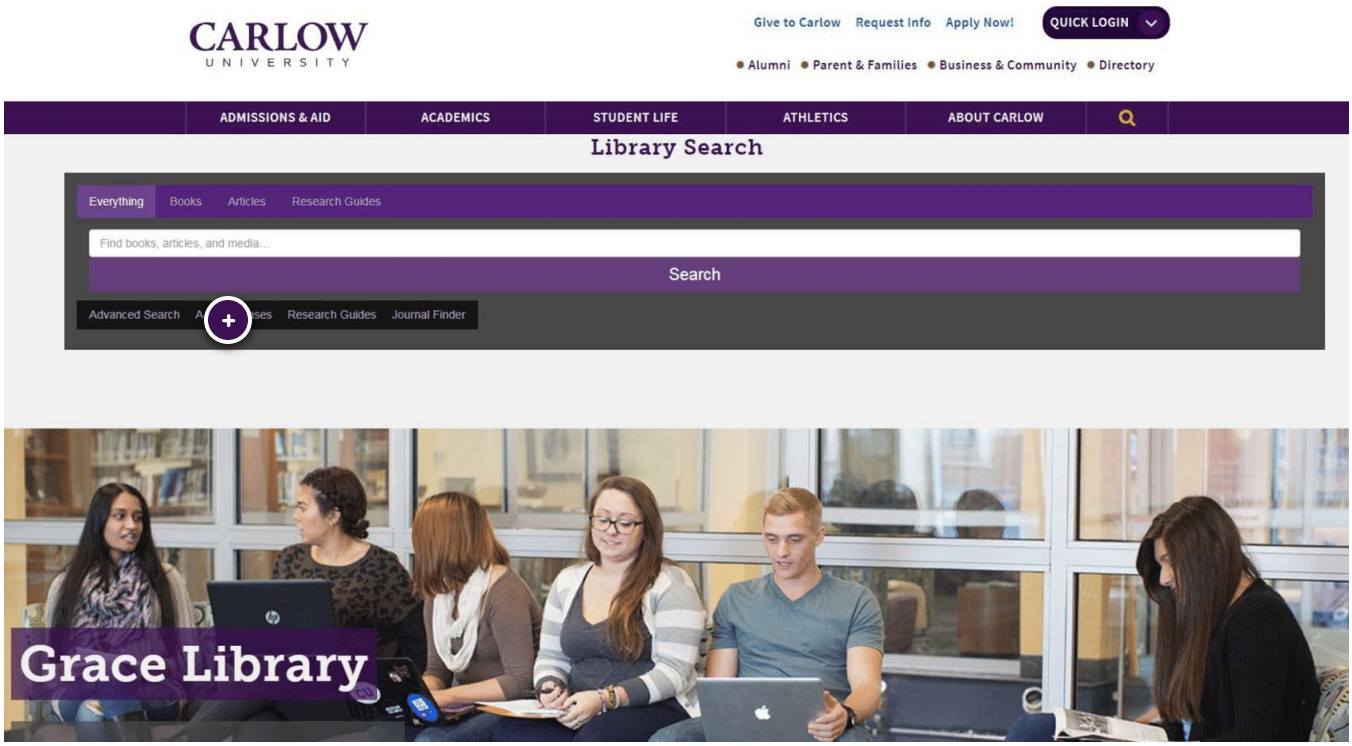
Articles
Research Guides
Find books, articles, and media...
Search
Advanced Search
Research Guides
Journal Finder
Grace Library



Search Tool

Grace Library's search tool, Discovery, allows you to search for all kinds of items! Whether you're looking for books, videos, articles, or more, we've got you covered!



Databases

Do you need more subject-specific information? Click on the A-Z Databases link to explore our databases!

CONTINUE

CARLOW UNIVERSITY

research

Advanced Search

Library Links | Sign In

Course Reserves | My Items (0)

Search Tools

Group related editions

Library
- Libraries Worldwide
- Grace Library, Carlow University

Content
- Full Text
- Peer Reviewed (8657478)
- Open Access

Format

Top 6 Formats
- All Formats
- Article, Chapter (10262663)
  - Article (9691421)
  - Downloadable Article (685946)
- Book (106398)
  - eBook (52714)
  - Print Book (4032)

Show More

Databases
- All Databases
- WorldCat.org (9178776)
- MEDLINE (3185983)
- Wiley Online Library (1887201)
- ABI/INFORM Collection (1104736)
- Academic Search Complete (538656)

Show More

Author
- All Authors
- Anonymous (106368)
- National Research Council (u.s). (1949)
- Li Y (1744)

10,373,694 results in Grace Library, Carlow University

Sorted by: Best Match

1.

Research priorities for airborne particulate matter. II, Evaluating research progress and updating the portfolio

by National Research Council (U.S.). Committee on Research Priorities for Airborne Particulate Matter.

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2.

Research priorities for airborne particulate matter. I, Immediate priorities and a long-range research portfolio

by National Research Council (U.S.). Committee on Research Priorities for Airborne Particulate Matter.

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3.

Research priorities for airborne particulate matter. IV, Continuing research progress

by National Research Council (U.S.). Committee on Research Priorities for Airborne Particulate Matter.

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In 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established regulatory standards to address health risks posed by inhaling tiny particles from smoke, vehicle exhaust, and other sourc… Read More

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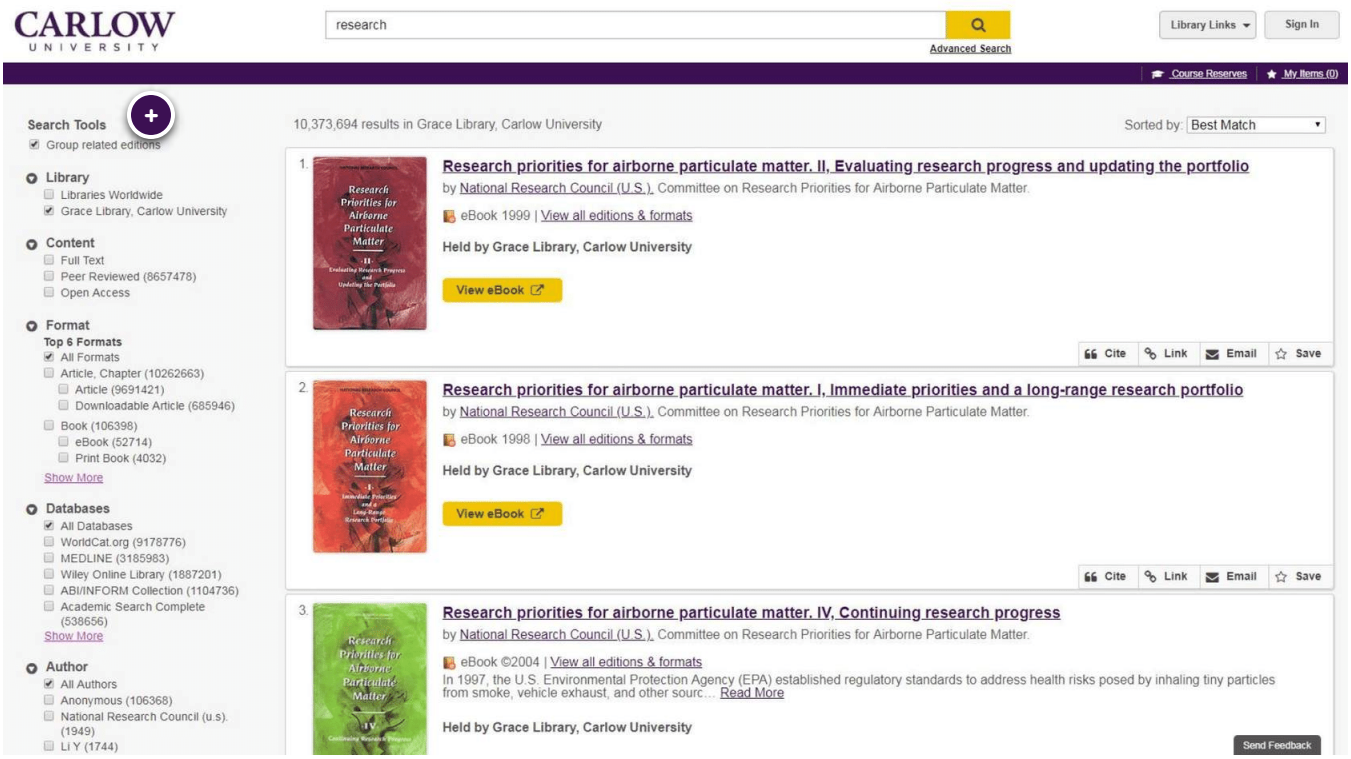
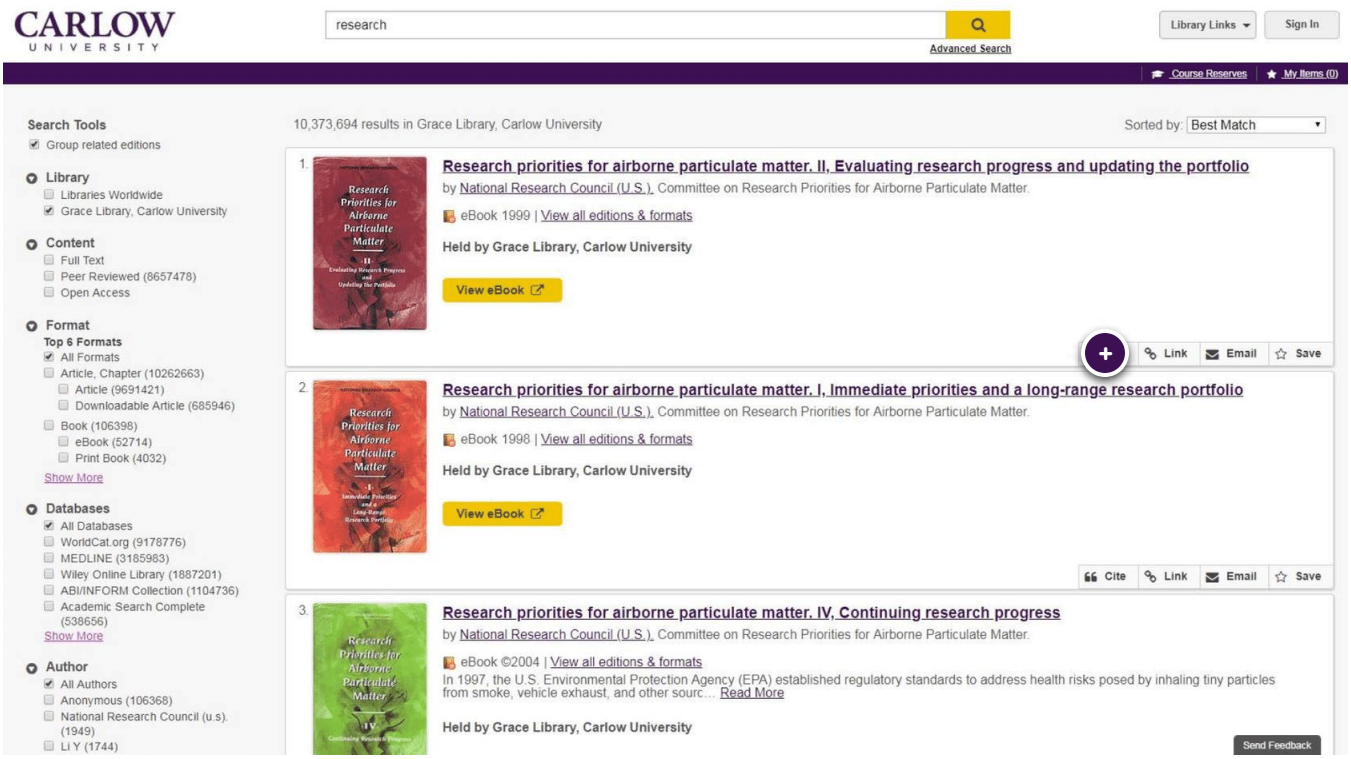


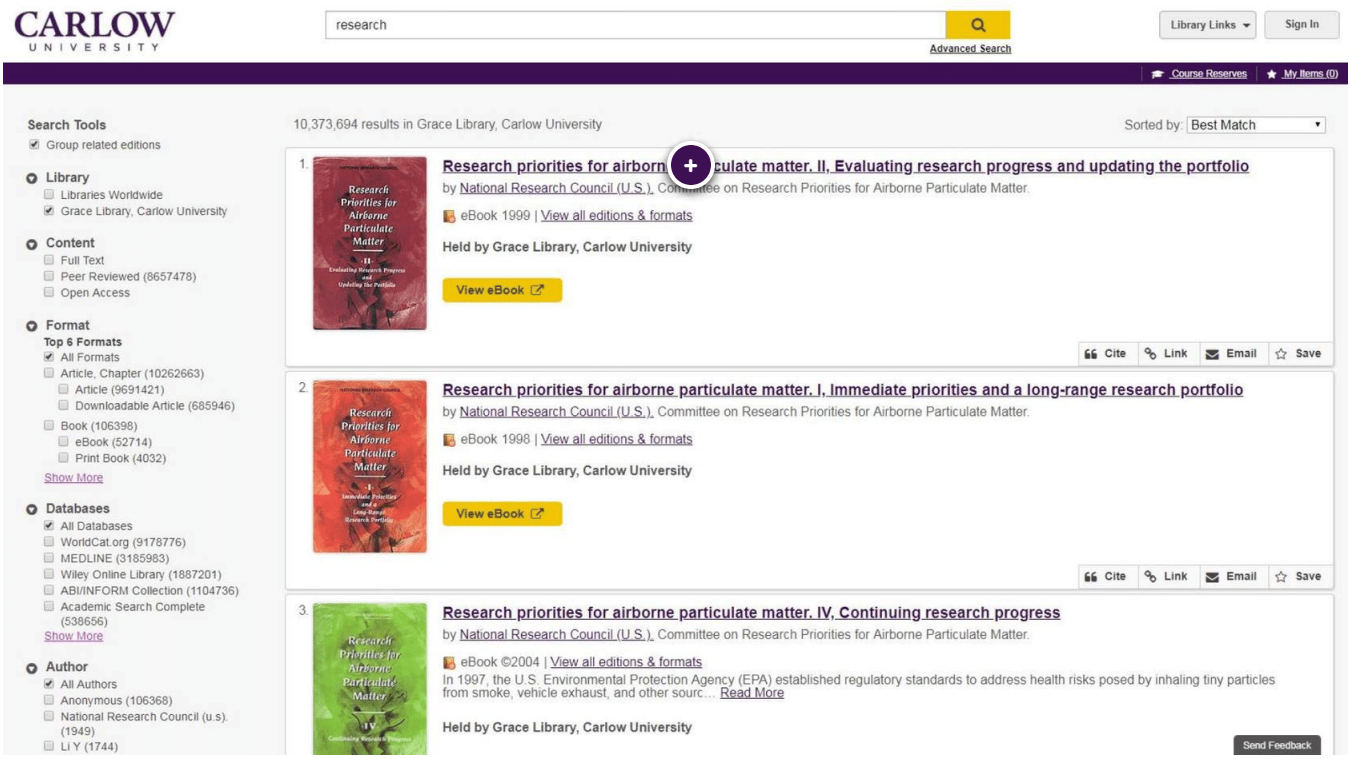
Search Tools

Do you need to narrow down your search results? No problem! Just browse through the search filters and apply the ones you need!



Cite

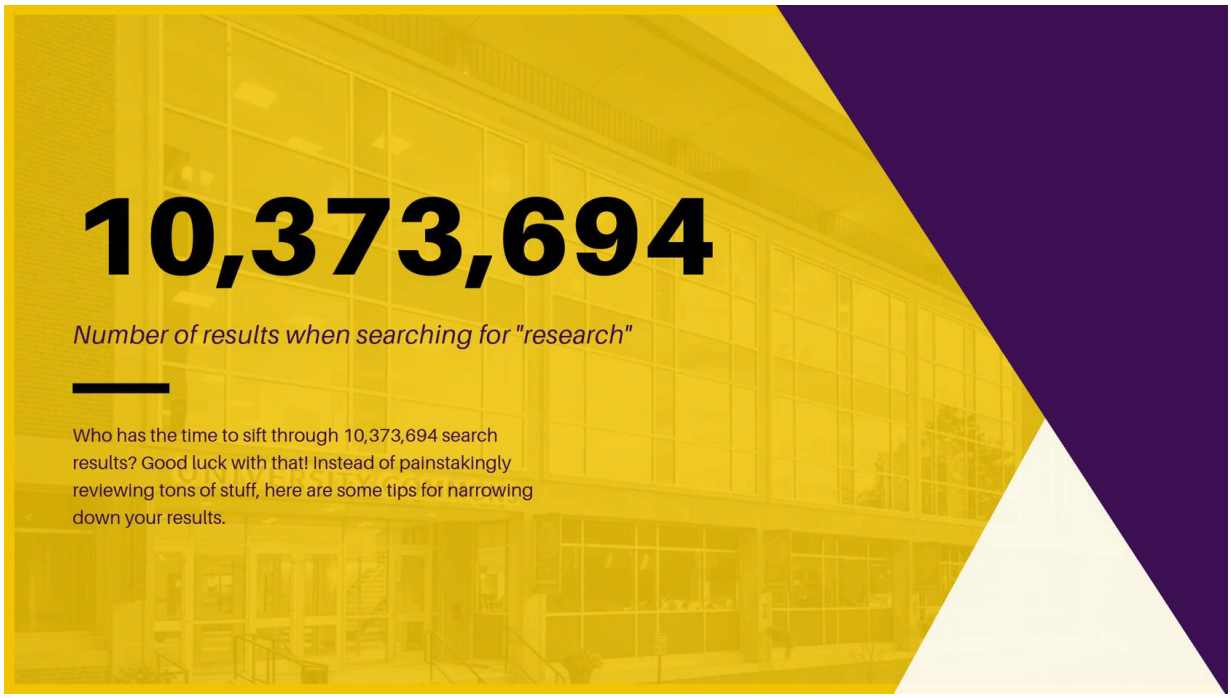
Need help generating citations? Click the Cite link to automatically generate a citation! Make sure to proofread the results before submitting your works cited page!



Item Name

Click on the link to the item you're interested to find out more about it. If it's unavailable, then we can always order a copy from somewhere else!

Search Results



Effective Searches

Before we go any further, take a look at the flashcards below. See if you can figure out what order the steps go in! If you have any trouble, then that's OK! We'll look at this closer in the next section.

Step One

Identify

Step Two

Sources

Step Three

Resources

Step Four

Repeat

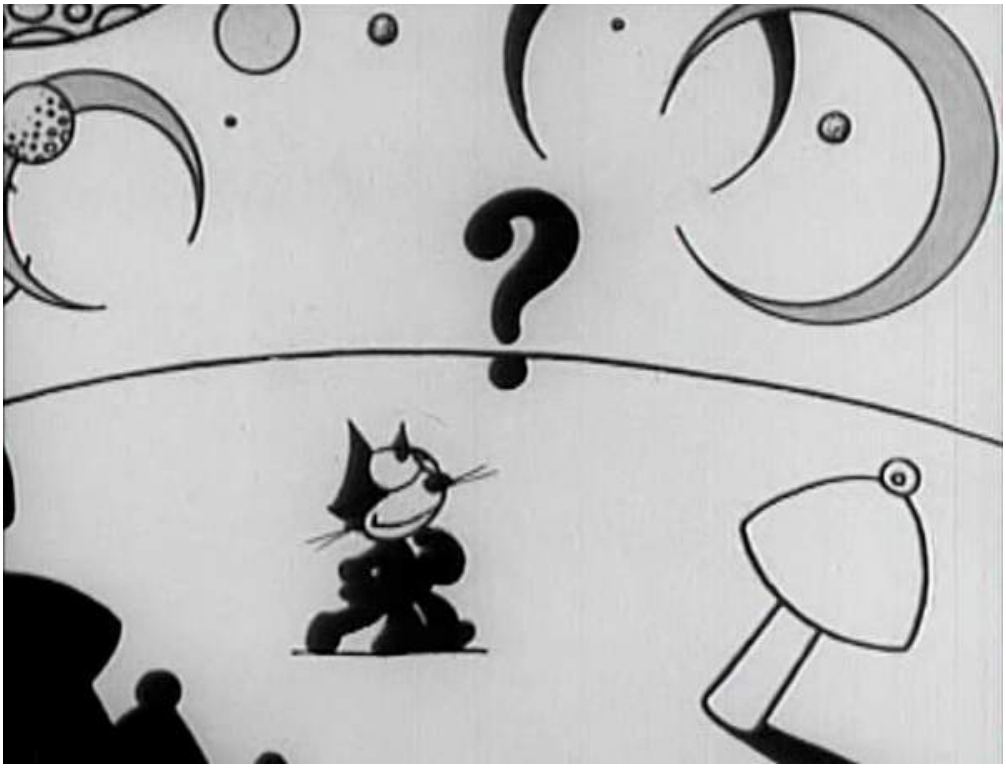
CONTINUE

Introduction

Here are some tips for building a more effective search!

Step 1

Identify



First, you need to identify your topic. What are you researching? How much do you know about the subject? Before you go any further, make sure you have an idea of what it is you're looking into and why you're looking into it!

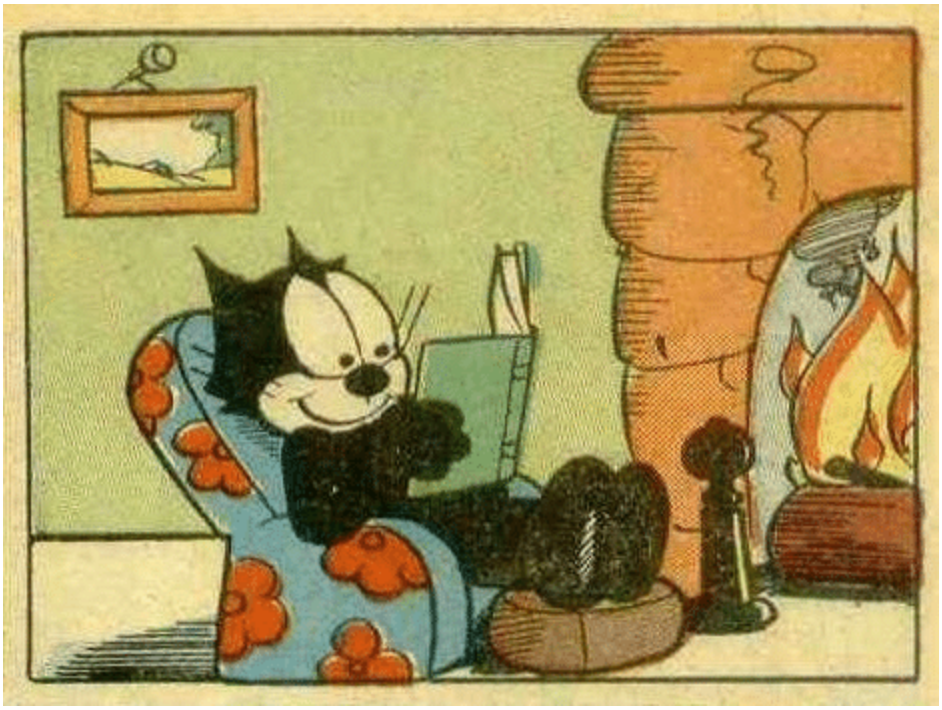
Step 2

Sources

Second, you need to know what kinds of sources you need and how many of them you should find. Does your instructor want five scholarly articles? Make sure you know how to identify the types of sources you need!

Step 3

Resources



Third, you need to know what resources are the best for your topic. Make sure you take a closer look at whatever you find. Going the extra distance can mean the difference between great resources and lousy ones!

Step 4

Repeat

Finally, as with anything in research, effective searches need to be revised. What did you find out? Has what you found made you think about your topic in a different way? Refine your search based on the information you found in your first search, then repeat the process!

Summary

Conducting a good search takes practice, but the results are worth it! A little extra time upfront will save you a lot of time in the long run.

CONTINUE

What are the steps for putting together an effective search?

Step One	Identify
Step Two	Sources
Step Three	Resources

Step Four

Repeat

SUBMIT

Search Steps

Building a search is a process!

Putting together a good search takes more than just typing in a few words and clicking on whatever the top Google result is. Instead, follow these four steps when you're building a search. Like editing a paper, sometimes your first attempt might not get you the results you want. Just keep at it!

CONTINUE

Review

First, make sure you analyze your sources. Are they relevant to your topic? Are they reliable? Before you dive into the deep end, make sure you're able to figure out how deep the water is!

Check

Second, ask yourself a few questions about your sources. Are they relevant to your topic? Are the sources reliable? Before you go any further, make sure you've reviewed the information you come across.

Third, modify your search

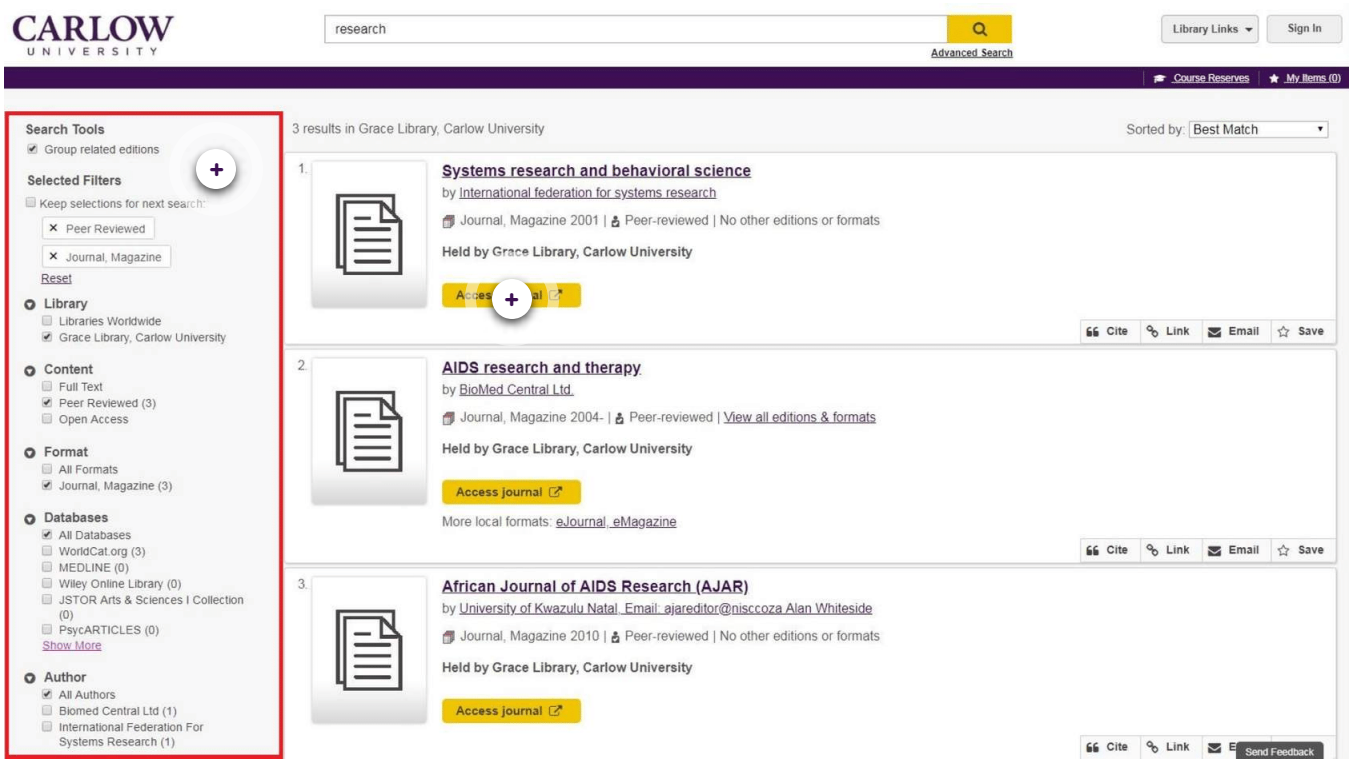
Modify

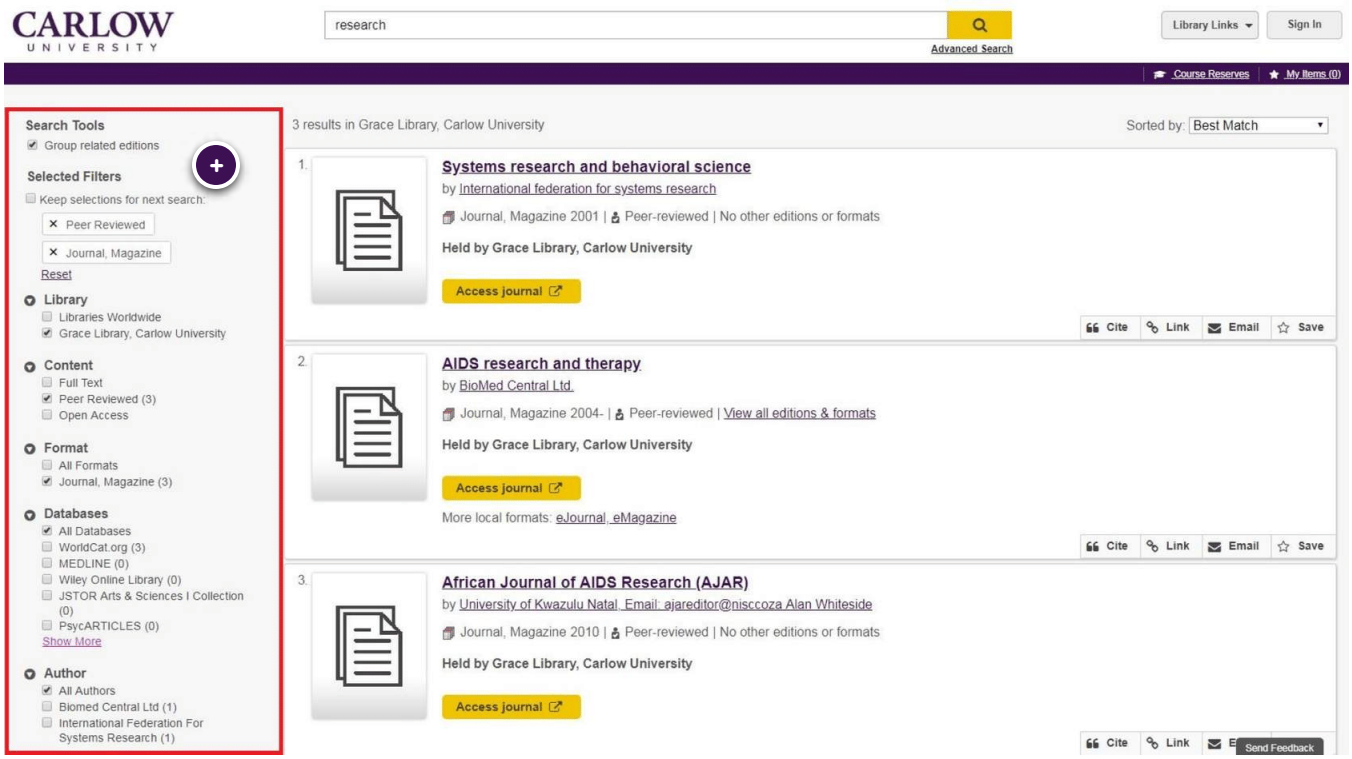
terms. Once you've conducted your first search, you'll come across a lot of different information on your topic. You can also use the Search Tools in

Repeat

Finally, make sure you repeat the process. Bet you didn't see that one coming, right?

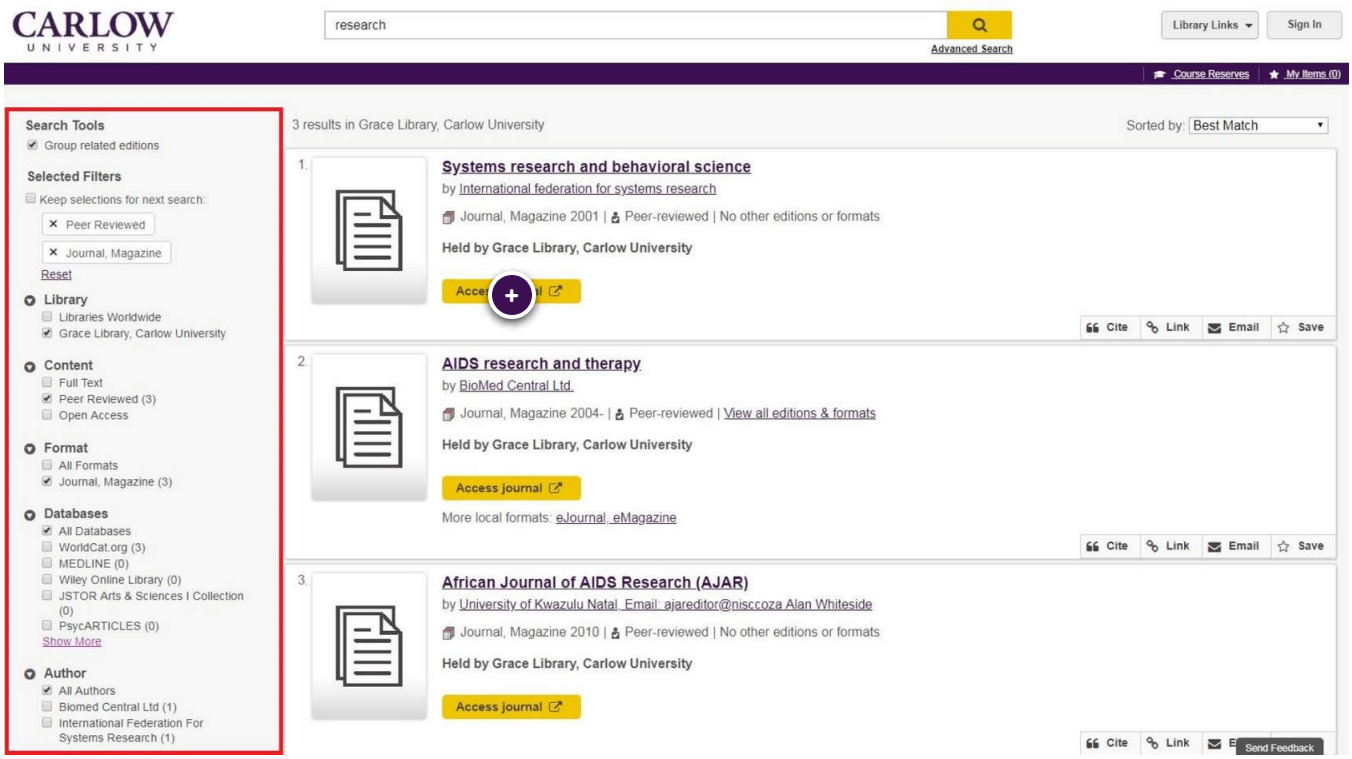
Search Filters





Search Tools

Do you need to narrow down your search results? Apply one or more of the filters in the Search Tools section to limit the results!



Access Journal

To access an item in Grace Library's collection, just click on the yellow link!

CONTINUE

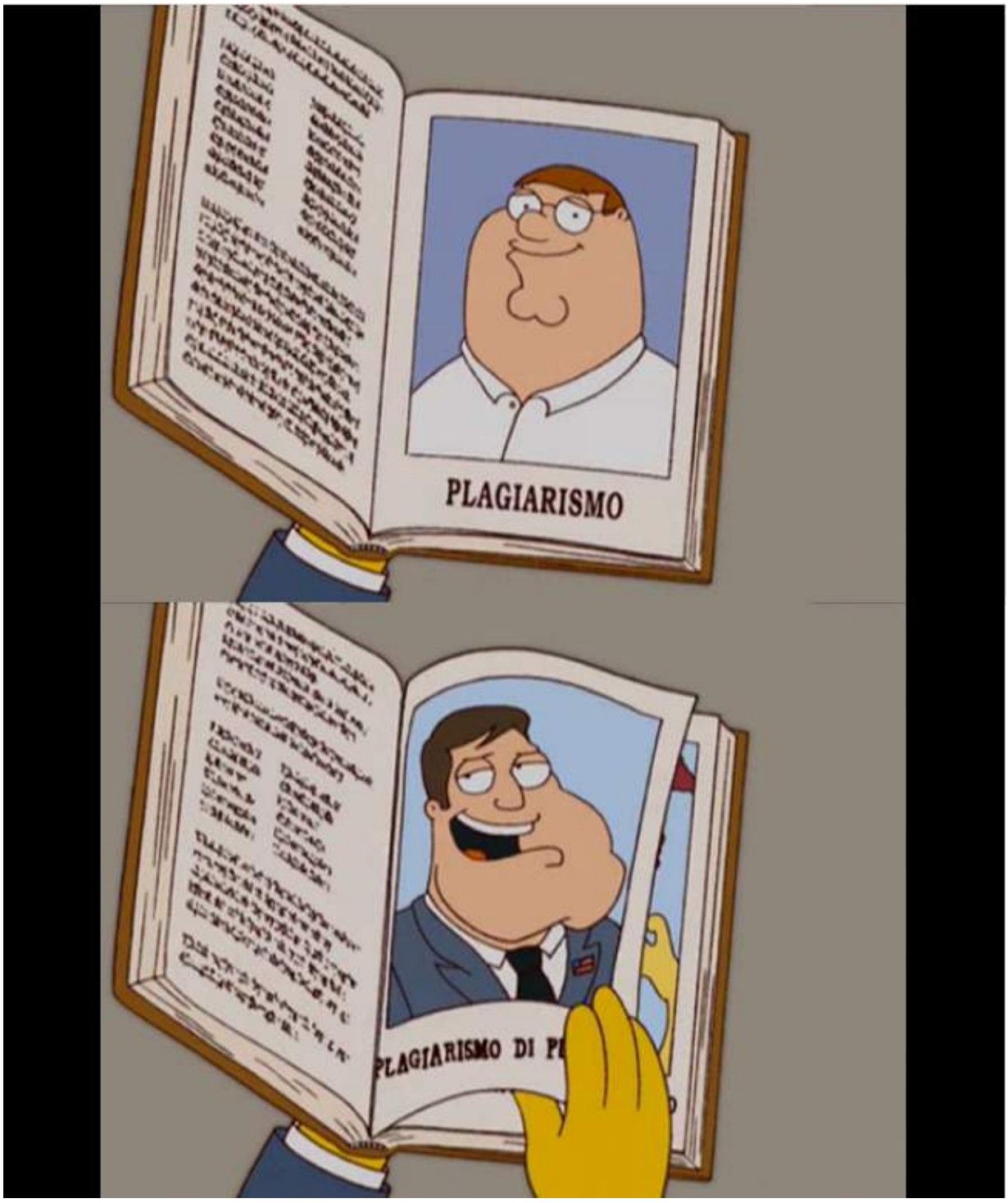
True or false: you can limit your search results to peer reviewed items.

- True
- False

SUBMIT

Plagiarism and Citations

CONTINUE



The Simpsons

What Is Plagiarism

Has anyone ever taken credit for something you did without acknowledging your work? Plagiarism is a lot like that. Put simply, plagiarism is theft. When you plagiarize someone else's work, you're taking credit for something you didn't do.

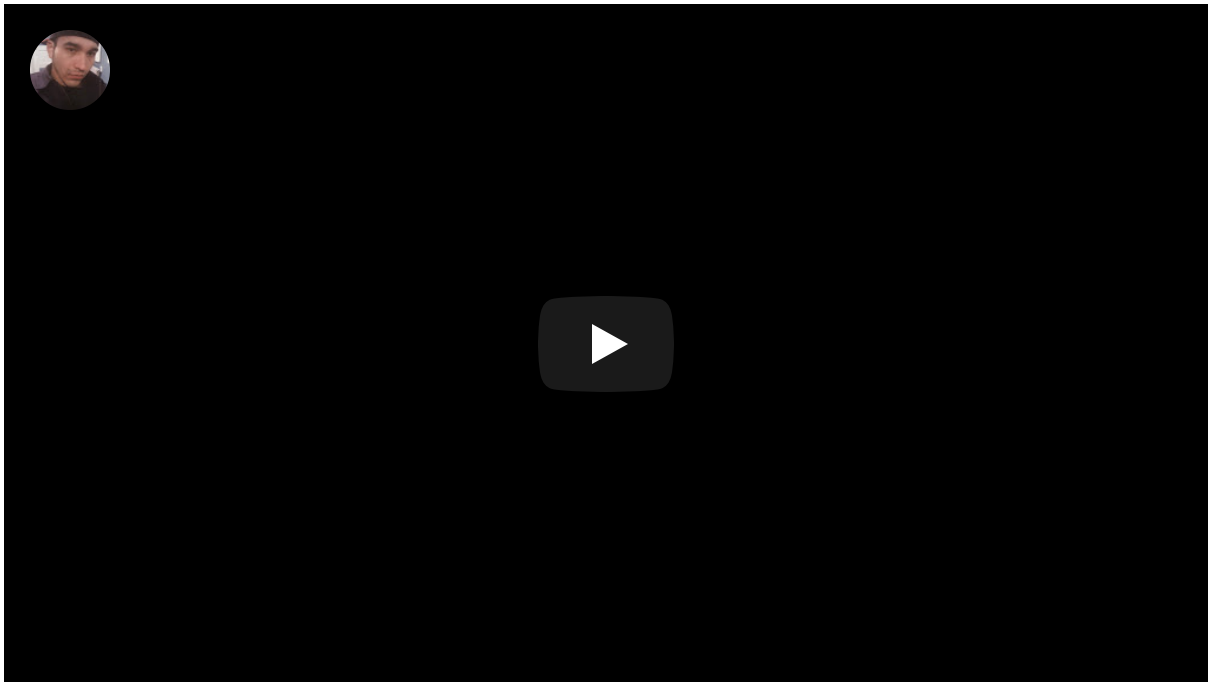
Examples of Plagiariasm

Introduction

Plagiarism happens more often than you might think. Here are three examples of someone taking credit for something someone else did without giving credit to someone else.

Step 1

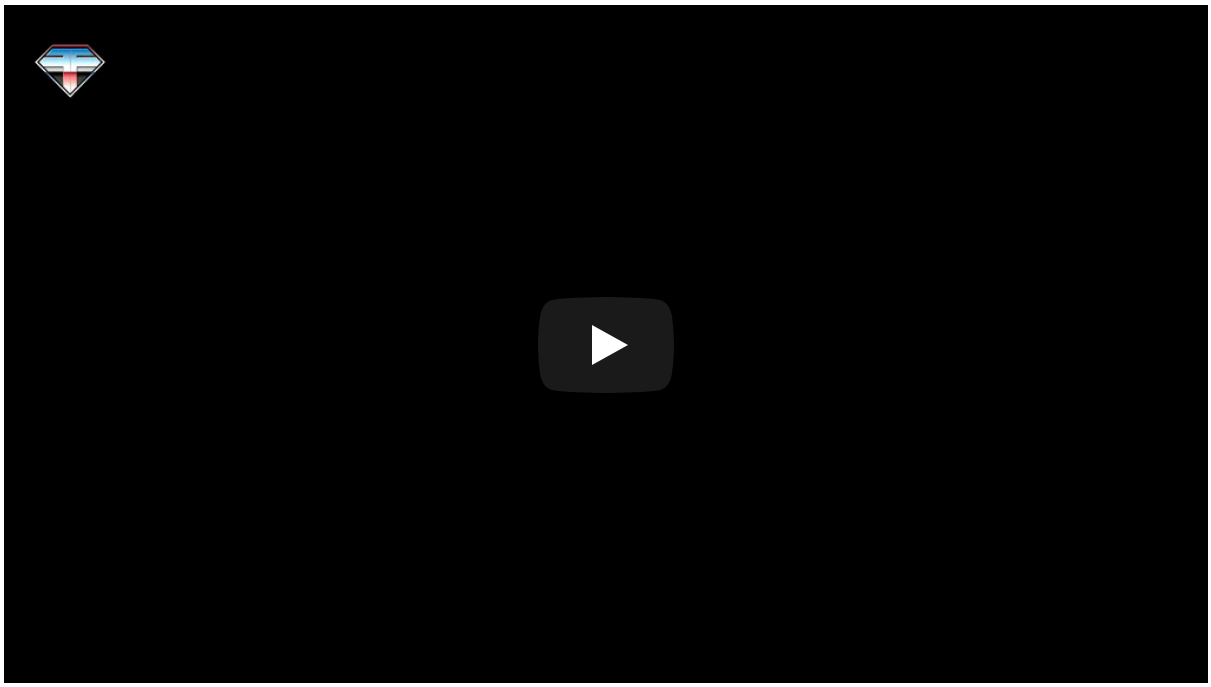
"The Big Salad," Seinfeld



George gets upset that Elaine thanks his girlfriend for getting her a "big salad," even though he paid for it. Petty? Sure. Fair? You be the judge!

Step 2

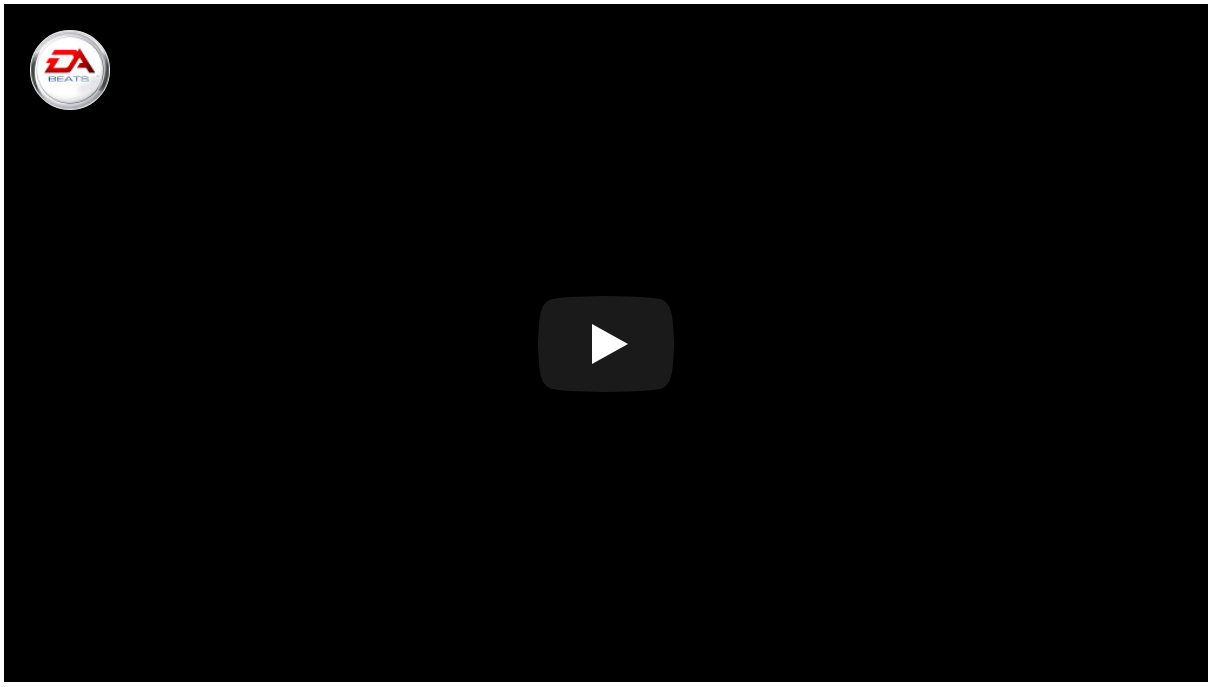
"Ice Ice Baby," Vanilla Ice vs. "Under Pressure," David Bowie and Queen



One of the more obvious examples. While Vanilla Ice denied the accusations, just take a listen and decide for yourself. "Ice Ice Baby" clearly lifted its melody from David Bowie and Queen's hit "Under Pressure."

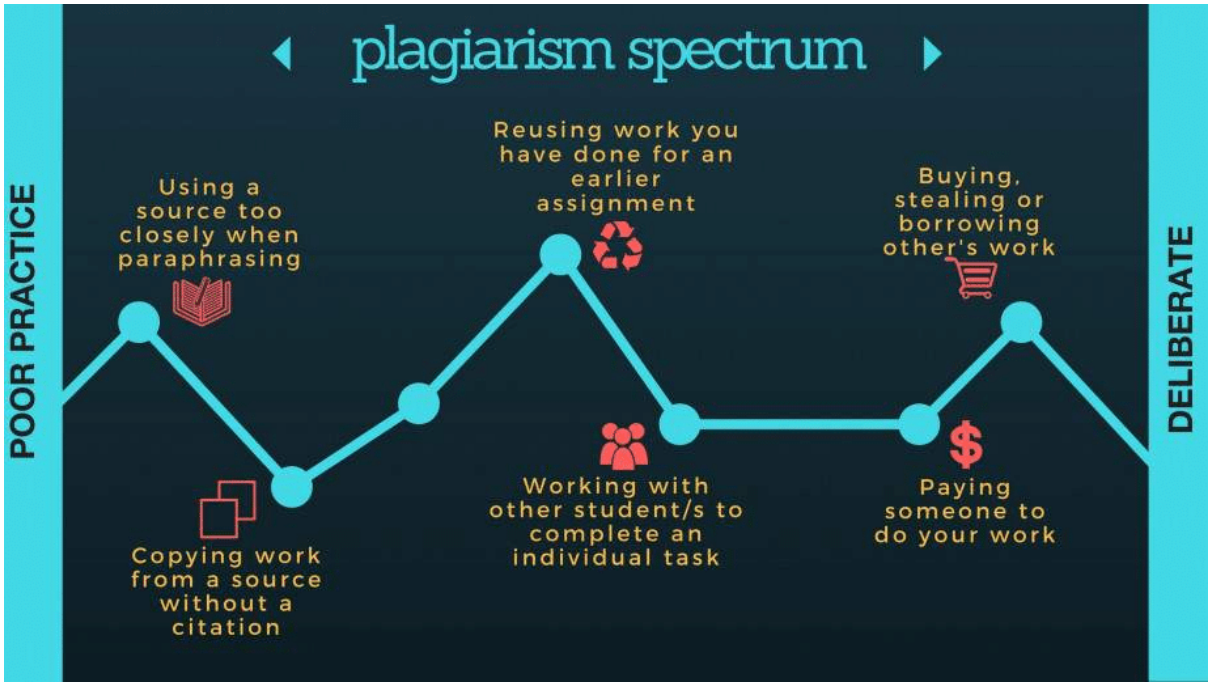
Step 3

HowardCantour.com, a Shia LaBeouf Project



Shia LaBeouf had a rough few years. In this case, he was caught directly lifting words and ideas from the Daniel Clowes graphic novel *Justin M. Damiano*.

Summary



These aren't the only examples of plagiarism out there. While not all cases of plagiarism as as blatant, even unintentional plagiarism is still plagiarism. Avoid it at all costs!

What Is a Citation?

What Do You Think?

Let's test what you know. Here's another sorting activity. See if you can identify which of the following examples need citations, and which of the following examples do not need citations.

Citation Needed

Paraphrasing someone's words

Using someone else's words

Using someone else's ideas

Using data someone else gathered

No Citation Needed

Common knowledge

Your original ideas

Results of a survey you created

CONTINUE

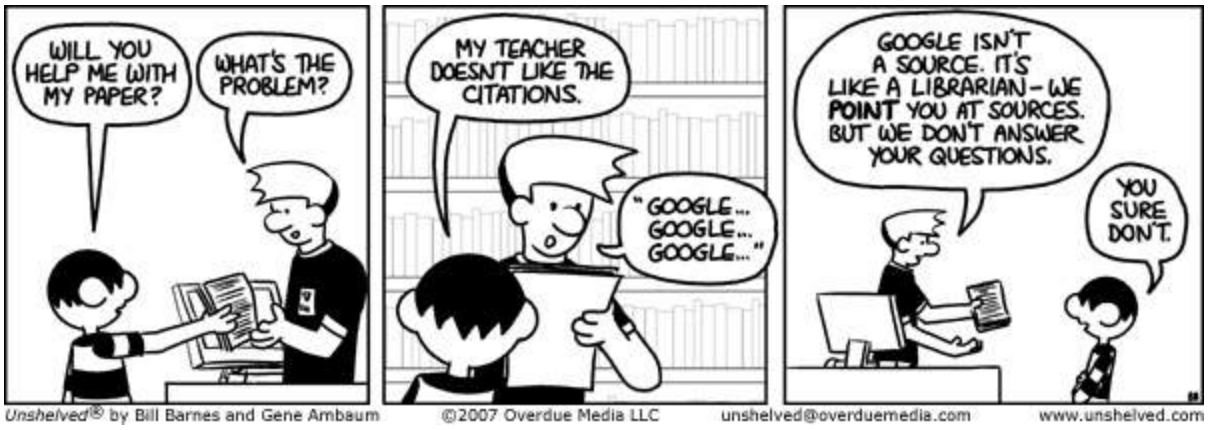
What Is a Citation?

A citation is a reference to a source.

Did your math teacher ever tell you to "show your work"? Citations show that you're doing more than just making things up! Remember to use your professor's preferred citation format whenever you...

- Quote someone's words
- Refer to data someone else gathered
- Use someone else's ideas/research
- Paraphrase someone else's work
- Discuss something someone else came up with

If you're not sure, then it's better to provide a citation. Remember this tip: **when in doubt, cite!**



A citation is a reference to a source. Google, while a useful tool, is not a source.

CONTINUE

In which of these cases should you cite your source(s)?

- You quote a passage from a scholarly journal.
- You summarize an article from a newspaper.

- [ ] You refer to data from a study you found.
- [ ] All of the above
- [ ] None of the above

SUBMIT

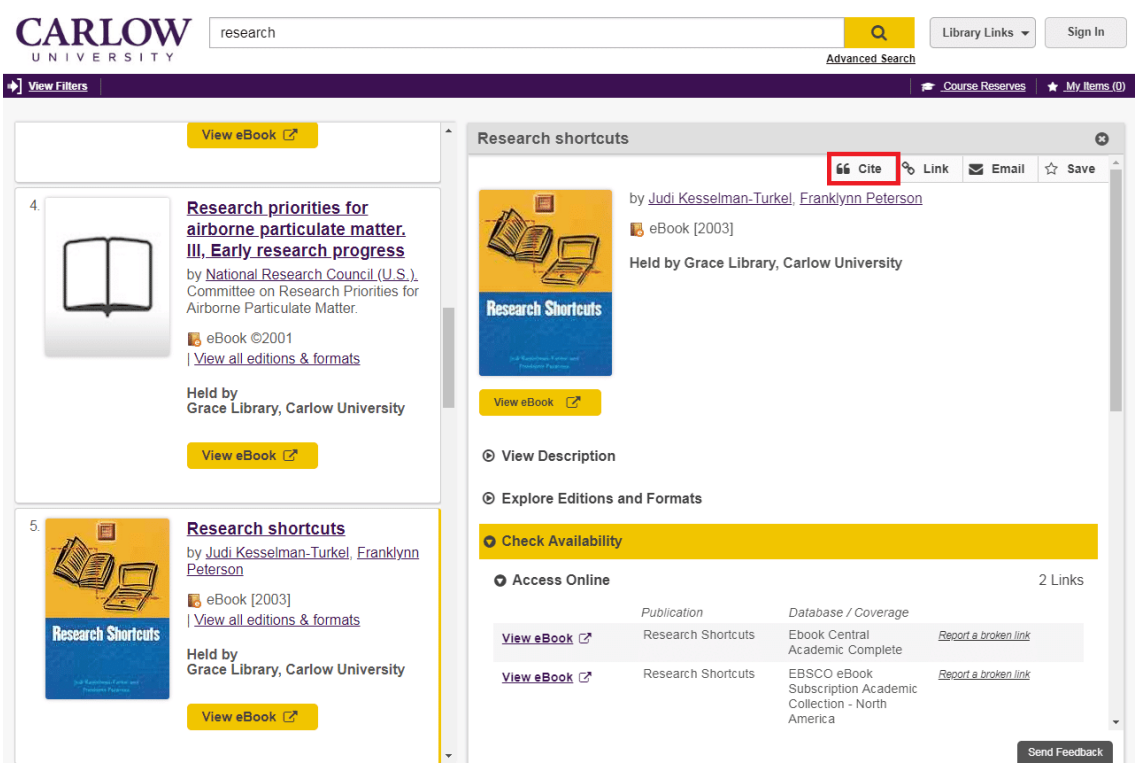
Generating Citations

Generating Citations

Putting together your works cited list can be tedious. Fortunately, Grace Library's Discovery search tool can help! Here are some tips for making your citations easier to manage.

Grace Library's Website

Grace Library's Discovery search tool can automatically generate citations! Click on link to your source, select "Cite," and then choose the citation format you need!

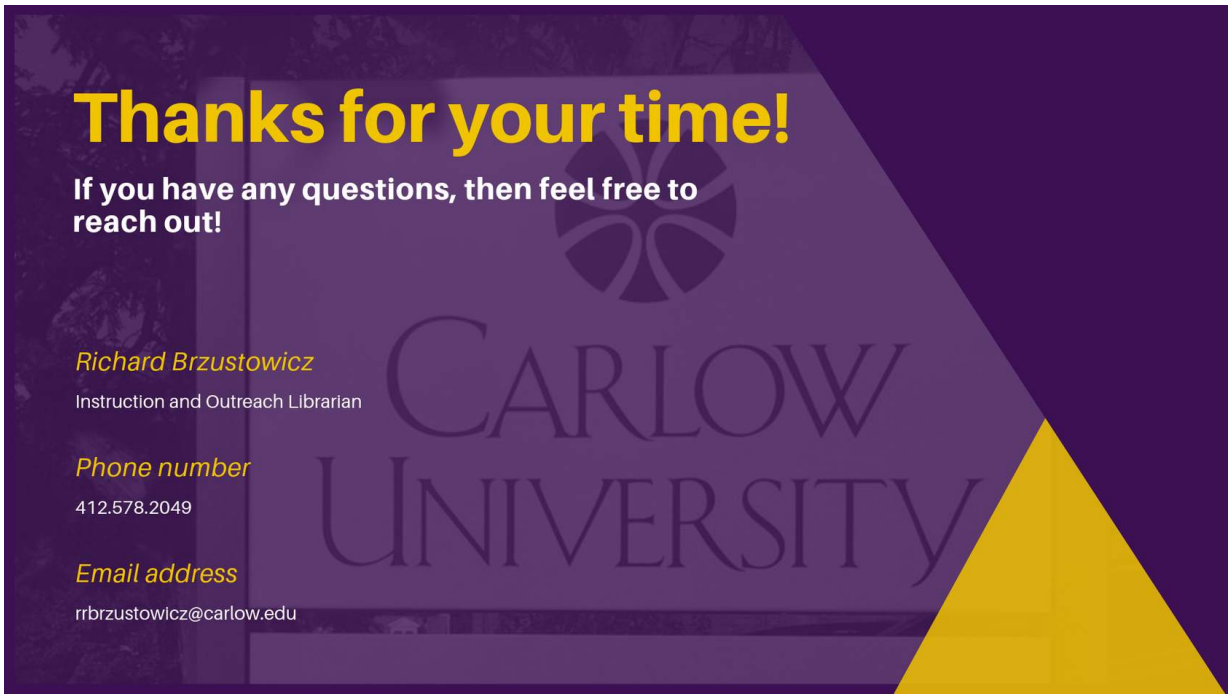


Center for Academic Achievement

If you have any questions about citations, the different formats (APA, MLA, and so on), or need more in-depth assistance, then the Center for Academic Achievement can help. Feel free to reach out to them with any questions you have!

$\log_a 1 = 0$
$\log_a a = 1$
$\log_a a^x = x$
if $\log_a X = \log_a Y$

Thank You


Thanks for your time!
If you have any questions, then feel free to reach out!
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Academic Integrity Policy

CONTINUE

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM | ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES | PROFESSIONAL CONSEQUENCES | PE CONS

Actions have consequences. If you plagiarize someone's work, whether on purpose or otherwise, you can face some pretty severe consequences. Click on the tabs to find out more.

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM | ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES | PROFESSIONAL CONSEQUENCES | PE CONS

- Failing an assignment and/or course
- Academic probation
- Expulsion

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM | ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES | PROFESSIONAL CONSEQUENCES | PE CONS

- Losing your job
- Discrediting yourself in your field
- Ruining your professional reputation

CONSEQUENCES OF PLAGIARISM	ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES	PROFESSIONAL CONSEQUENCES	PE CONS

- Damaging your personal reputation/relationships
- Embarrassing!
- Who wants to be known as a cheater?

SHAME. SHAME. SHAME.

Assessment

ASSESSMENT

Now that we've introduced some basic steps in the research process, it's time to test what you've learned! Before you can get credit for completing this module, you'll need to answer the multiple choice questions in the link below. Good luck!

CONTINUE

Fill | Research Foundations

This quiz is the final part of the Research Foundations module. To receive credit, this section must be completed.

READ MORE OFFICE >