

Writing Research Guide

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Evaluating Resources

- Authority – Is the author knowledgeable? Does the author have professional/academic experience?
- Accuracy – Did you find any errors? If so, there could be more your missed.
- Objectivity – Is there any bias? Does the author represent multiple points of view?
- Currency – Is this information up to date? How fast does information change in this field?
- Audience – Who did the author have in mind for this content? What tone and style did the author use?

Search Tools and Strategies

- [Boolean \(AND, OR, NOT\)](#) – Searching method that helps widen or narrow your list of results.
- Citation info – EBSCO and Gale databases will provide your bibliography citations for you.
- CTRL + F – This keyboard command will let you search for keywords in a document or website.
- [Help video playlist](#) – SWOCC Library instructional videos.
- [Interlibrary Loan](#) – We can order books, articles, and movies from libraries outside the Coastline system.
- Limiters – Filters in databases to help narrow your results such as: full text, peer review, and date range.
- Listing search terms – Make a note of useful terms and phrases to organize your database searching.
- [Publication Finder](#) – A special database that tells you if we have full-text access to a journal or eBook.
- “Quotation marks” – You can search for an entire phrase as stated if you put it in quotation marks.
- References in great articles – The bibliography in a useful article can give you leads to other sources.
- Search multiple databases at once – You can cross search in many EBSCO and Gale databases.
- Truncat* -- Searching the root of a word can expand your results (truncate, truncating, truncation, etc.)

General Websites

- PC Magazine [infographic](#) on searching Google
- [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#)

Physical Materials (books and movies)

- SWOCC Library is part of the Coastline Library Network in Coos and Curry Counties.
- SWOCC students and staff can apply for a Coastline library card [here](#).
- Browse and order items on the [Coastline catalog website](#).
- This [help video](#) will show you the basics of navigating the catalog.

Academic Databases

- Available on and off campus.
- Log in with your 7-digit SWOCC student ID number.
- If your ID doesn't contain 7-digits, add zeros to the beginning until it does (123456 = 0123456).
- These multidisciplinary databases are a great place to start:
 - [Academic OneFile](#) (help video [here](#))
 - [Academic Search Complete](#) (help video [here](#))
 - [EBSCO Academic eBook](#) and [EBSCO Community College eBook](#) Collections (help video [here](#))
 - [Points of View Reference Center](#)