



Searching for Technical Information Prescott Library, La Tech University

1. First, think about the **type** of material you'd like to use: books, journal/newspaper articles, government information, patents, pictures, statistics, standards.
2. Next, decide which of the following are the best places to locate **that type** of information within the library or from the library's website.

Books: Tech Library Catalog, e-Books (NetLib, Knovel)

Journal articles: Articles in Journals then click on Search by Subjects. Next, choose your desired subject area; Google Scholar

Newspaper articles: Newspapers, then either click on Lexis-Nexis Academic or choose a particular newspaper listed

Gov Info: Government Info then either search the Library Catalog on the right or click on Federal Websites or Louisiana Websites on the left. www.google.com/ig/usgov is also a good commercial site to use

Patents: Gov Information > Federal Websites > USPTO; SciFinder; Engr Village 2

Pictures: ask at the Info Desk about reference books that have these

Statistics: Statistical Abstract, Reference Materials > Facts & Statistics;
Also try adding the phrase "and statistics" to your search in the different indexes and in the Tech Library catalog

Technical Standards: ASTM, IEEE, a few others are listed in the Tech catalog

3. If an article is not full text within an index, check the Library's catalog by clicking on the link *Search the Louisiana Tech Catalog*.
Note: All paper journals will be located on the 3rd floor by their call number.

The article may be full text in another index besides the one you are searching in. To determine this, click on *Check LinkSource(LS) for more information*. Then simply click on any available indexes--but note the dates of coverage.

Also, most indexes will now permit you to save your search results electronically to a folder for future access.

4. e-Books: **NetLibrary** books are also listed in the Prescott Library catalog; sometimes there might also be a paper copy of the same book. You can print the contents of a NetLibrary. **Knovel** is a database of technical reference books, mostly for engineering and the life sciences.
6. When accessing resources from off campus, your UserID is your student ID number (CWID) and your PIN is your birthdate as mmddyyyy.
7. If Prescott Library does not own something, you may order books and journal articles using Interlibrary Services (ILLiad)—with some restrictions. Also, you can click on **Catalogs** and check different academic libraries across Louisiana.

When printing citations from the EBSCOhost indexes, you may now choose a particular bibliographic style format. Below are listed examples of APA and MLA style.

Examples of Citation Formats for full text online articles

EBSCO Publishing Citation Format: APA (American Psychological Assoc.):

Pavlin, J. (2005). Medical Surveillance for Biological Terrorism Agents. *Human & Ecological Risk Assessment*, 11(3), 525-537. Retrieved September 20, 2006 from the Academic Search Premier database.

EBSCO Publishing Citation Format: MLA (Modern Language Assoc.):

Pavlin, Julie. "Medical Surveillance for Biological Terrorism Agents." Human & Ecological Risk Assessment 11.3 (2005): 525-537. Academic Search Premier. 20 September 2006. <http://search.ebscohost.com>.

Prescott Library also has copies of several style manuals such as the **Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association** and the **MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers**. Just ask for these at the Information Desk on the main floor. The information can also be found by doing a Google search. The **OWL at Purdue** (Purdue's online writing lab) is a very helpful website.

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