

# Searching for Technical Information

Prescott Memorial Library  
Louisiana Tech University

## Choosing a Topic

To get an idea about current issues or problems in a particular field of study, look in relevant periodicals. To find whether or how Prescott Library provides access to a magazine, newspaper or scholarly journal, go to Search for Journals <<https://www.latech.edu/library/search-information/journals>> to search Full Text Finder.

Consider general magazines such as

- *Nature*
- *Time*
- *The Week*

Subject-specific periodicals include

- *ENR (Engineering News Record)*
- *Fortune*
- *JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association)*
- *MIT Technology Review*
- *Psychology Today*

To find periodicals in a particular field, go to the Library Catalog <[https://latech.ent.sirsi.net/client/en\\_US/latech](https://latech.ent.sirsi.net/client/en_US/latech)> select Advanced Search. Change the first drop-down menu option from keyword to subject, then type into its text area a subject like Marketing, Education, Electrical Engineering or Medicine. Change the second drop-down menu to subject, type Periodicals into its text area, and click Search.

Also consider newspapers such as

- *The New York Times*
- *Baton Rouge Advocate*
- *New Orleans Times Picayune*
- *Shreveport Times,*
- *Monroe News Star*
- *Ruston Daily Leader*

Paper and microfilm copies of newspapers are located on the 3rd floor of the Library. Links to newspapers' Web sites and full text online from Nexis Uni are listed under Research Resources: Newspapers <<https://www.latech.edu/library/research-resources/newspapers>>.

CQ Researcher, a weekly newsmagazine listed in the alphabetical directory of Databases: A-Z <<https://www.latech.edu/library/research-resources/databases-a-z-list>> features overviews, debates and sources on important current events and controversial topics such as bullying, homelessness, CMOs, gun control, net neutrality, opioid crisis, and student debt.

Access to many of Prescott Library's databases is restricted to Tech students and staff. From off campus, you will be prompted to enter the user name and password of your Tech email/Moodle account.

## Conducting your Research

A good research paper should marshal a variety of sources: books, journals, newspapers, and government information. These sources may also include material you may not have considered before such as statistics, patents, and technical reports. So, where do you find this information on the Library's Web site?

### Articles

Go to Search for Articles < <https://www.latech.edu/library/search-information/articles>>, the alphabetical A-Z List or the Subject List of databases arranged by college and field of study. Select and search either a general purpose index of publications, like Academic Search Ultimate, or a subject-specific index such as

- Avery Index – Liberal Arts: Architecture
- Engineering Village – Engineering & Science: Engineering
- IEEE Xplore – Engineering and Science: Engineering
- Business Source Complete – Business
- Biological Abstracts – Applied and Natural Sciences: Biology
- CINAHL – Applied and Natural Sciences: Nursing
- Medline – Applied and Natural Sciences: Medicine
- ERIC – Education
- PsycINFO – Education

Among search results, listings of journal articles will indicate

- PDF Full Text – if the database provides full text of the article in a PDF file
- HTML Full Text – if the database provides hypertext of the article
- Linked Full Text – if Tech has access to the full text from another database
- Full Text Finder – a link to check whether Tech has access to the article either online or among the Library's periodicals in paper (bound volumes) or microfilm
- Request this item through ILLiad – a link to the Library's Interlibrary Loan service <<https://www.latech.edu/library/services/interlibrary-loan>> because Tech does not have access to the article

Many databases provide with the listing of each article they index examples of how to cite it according to various citation formats. Several style manuals, such as the *MLA Handbook* and *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*, can be consulted in the Library's Ready Reference Collection behind the Information Desk. For general guidelines about styles, see also Purdue University's Online Writing Lab (OWL) <[https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)>.

For newspaper articles, see Nexis Uni, listed under Research Resources: Newspapers.

## Books

Go to Search for Books or Search for Catalogs, then to Library Catalog for the books, government documents, periodicals and other publications made available by Prescott Library. The Library Catalog also provides electronic access to government publications as well as ebooks from EBSCO's eBook Collection, Knovel, Momentum Press and other collections listed under Research Resources: Electronic Book Collections. Search the union catalog WorldCat <<https://www.worldcat.org>> for records of resources in libraries elsewhere in Louisiana, the United States, and around the world.

## Government Information

Go to Government Documents: Federal Resources <<https://www.latech.edu/library/government-documents/federal-resources>> for access to federal agencies such as the Patent and Trademark Office (see also Google Patents), publications like as the Statistical Abstracts of the United States (1879-2012), and search engines such as Science.gov and USA.gov. For access to Louisiana state agencies or resources, go to Government Documents: Louisiana Resources.

To search for books, government documents and periodical articles all at once, perhaps if you are not sure where to begin your research, use EBSCO's Discovery Service.

To search for scientific research, scholarship and other professional publications on the Web, use Google Scholar. Click the link for E-resources @ Tech beside the listing of an article to check Full Text Finder whether Tech has access to it online or on 3rd Floor.

## Contact Us

If you have questions or problems concerning your research, call the Information Desk at (318) 257-2439 or send a request by email to Ask-a-Librarian. This service is linked under Contact Us <<https://www.latech.edu/library/contact/ask-a-librarian>> and from Moodle.

Revised October 2019 by Boris Teske.