



# The Savvy Researcher #5

## Finding & Evaluating ... Journal & Magazine Articles in EBSCO's Academic Search Premier

Library Website: <http://library.clackamas.edu>

Reference Assistance: (503)657-6958 x2290

### A. FORMING AN EFFECTIVE SEARCH STATEMENT

- At the Advanced Keyword (default) screen, search for your topic.  
ASP looks for your terms **as a phrase** by default, so put **ands** where needed!  
(*climate change cars* finds 2 articles; use *climate change and cars*)  
Keeping different ideas on different lines will help as you refine your search.

Your initial search statement:

# Hits: \_\_\_\_\_

- View the **Subject Terms** shown in the left frame and **revise** your search to include those that are relevant. Including ASP's vocabulary can significantly improve your results!

ASP also allows **truncation**  
*climat\** retrieves *climate*,  
*climatic*, *climates*

Use **or** when you would like the article if it uses **either** of your terms.

- Relevant **Subject Terms** shown for your search:      3. Work with your search until you get **50-500** items.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Hits: \_\_\_\_\_

### B. LIMITS: GETTING TO THE BEST ARTICLES.

- Open "Search Options." Set **number of pages** to **greater than 1**. Click "Search." # Hits: \_\_\_\_\_
- Use the **slider** to limit to the last 5-10 years. (Note: this resets itself whenever you search.)
- Need just a few good items? Limit to **full-text items** and/or items at the Library.
- Update** results. # Hits remaining: \_\_\_\_\_
- Sort** by relevance.

(Need a thorough search? Do not limit to full-text. If you find a promising article, we can get it by Interlibrary Loan.)

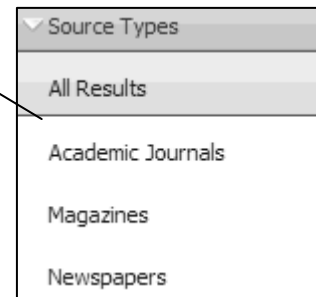
### C. JOURNAL ARTICLES – checking author & source information

1. Select **Academic Journals** under “Source Types” at the results screen.  
Select an item that appears to be a **research** article (not news or opinion).  
Open the article in **full-text** view. Is it: \_\_\_HTML \_\_\_PDF

First author: \_\_\_\_\_

First 5 words of title: \_\_\_\_\_

Source journal: \_\_\_\_\_



#### 2. **Author Information.**

What qualifications (degrees) or affiliations (institutions) does the article show for the (first) author?  
(Look under the authors’ names, or at bottom of first page.)

Click on the author’s name link. Does *ASP* have more articles by this person? (Try unchecking Full-text)

Use *Google* to look for a faculty page or other website with information on this person and their research.  
(Try including the institution with the person’s name.) What are this person’s main research areas?

3. **Sources Cited.** Approximately how many references are given? \_\_\_\_\_ Are they *primarily*:  
\_\_\_ magazines, newspapers & websites or \_\_\_ journals, technical reports & academic books

4. **Journal information.** Return to the citation view of your article and click on the title of the journal.  
Is it *peer-reviewed*? Y N Who publishes it? \_\_\_\_\_

### D. MAGAZINE ARTICLES – checking author & source information

1. Return to the results screen, choose **Magazines**, and open an article in full-text. Is it: \_\_\_HTML \_\_\_PDF

First author: \_\_\_\_\_ First 5 words of title: \_\_\_\_\_

Source magazine: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Author Information.** These are generally professional writers & journalists, either freelance or on staff .  
Check the beginning and end of the article – what information, if any, is given about the author?

Click on the author’s name link. Does *ASP* have more articles by this person? How many?  
Are they writing frequently for the same publication? Do they appear to specialize in some subject?

Try *Google* to look for more information on this person. What did you find?

3. **Sources Cited.** There won’t usually be a formal list, but the author should be stating sources.  
Scan the text and name at least one source (expert, study, agency...) to which this author refers:

4. **Magazine information.** Return to the citation view of your article and click on the title of the magazine.  
What does the description tell you about its purpose and audience?

### E. CITATION FEATURE – Open any item (click the title).

Click this icon to see citations for the item in a variety of formats. NOTE: These are usually not quite correct! Check them against your Writing textbook or the library’s handout.

