Introducing the Library Website

The library's website, accessible at library.mcmaster.ca, provides information about library hours, facilities, services, and the latest news about McMaster libraries. It also provides access to the library's print and online resources via the library catalogue, article databases, and the journal search portal.

Whether your assignment requires you to find books, scholarly articles, newspapers, or primary sources, these can all be found using the library's website. The website is your portal for access to resources.

Your library account is where you'll sign in to place books on hold or renew the books you have checked out. This is also where you'll find your account information like due dates or overdue fines.

The FAQ page is a great resource to check for all your burning questions. It is likely that if you have a question, other students have too! You can type your question in the search box or check out the topics along the right-side menu. If your question is not answered in the FAQ, send library staff an email at library@mcmaster.ca

When you're ready to search for resources, navigate to library.mcmaster.ca and use the Omni search box to type your keywords. Omni searches everything McMaster owns, as well as resources like ebooks and journal articles. It also searches other Omni catalogues in Ontario so you can see if your book is available elsewhere and submit a request to borrow the book or have a chapter scanned and sent to you. You will need to log in to your library account to see complete results, request items, and access ebooks from off campus.

Omni is a really great place to start your research, but please remember that nothing searches everything! If you can't find what you're looking for, or you're looking for more resources to supplement what you've found in Omni, it's best to go directly into the databases.

From the homepage, use the databases tab to search for a specific database, find lists of databases the library subscribes to, and filter databases by subject.

Click on the tab. From here, you can search for a specific database such as Project Muse or EBSCOhost databases. Remember, this is not a search bar for your keywords, but the name of a database. Or you can use the filters to find databases related to your subject, such as social science. Browsing by subject matter will result in a list of databases that contain information relevant to that discipline. The suggested Best Bets are great places to start, especially if you are feeling overwhelmed or not sure which database to choose.

The Journal Search tab is the best place to search if you already have the citation information for an article. Say you found an article that you want to read, but you're not sure which database it might be in. Click the Journal Search tab, and search for the journal title where the article was published. If the library has access, you can then search for the article title directly in the journal. Searching for a specific journal also allows you to browse all issues the library has access to. There might be a specific journal that you know publishes articles relevant to your research topic.

Research guides are helpful as a starting point for your research. Choosing the 'research guides' tab will let you search for general guides or guides by subject and course. These guides are designed to help you with research skills, such as finding books, finding articles, and tips and resources for writing and citing.

Please remember that library staff are here to help you. Come visit us at a service desk in Mills or Thode, book a consultation with a librarian, use our online chat service Ask a Librarian or send us an email at library@mcmaster.ca