

Searching as Strategic Exploration:

Library Searching Assignment

Purpose

This assignment will introduce you to searching and refining your search for scholarly literature using a university catalog. The librarians will then build off this assignment during our in class session, which will prepare you for your annotated bibliography assignment.

What is Scholarly Literature?

Scholarly literature is written by experts in the field. They usually publish their research in academic journals and are employed by universities and other educational or research institutions. They submit their articles to editors of academic journals, who decide on whether or not the article should be published. This peer review process means that before the article is accepted and published, it will be reviewed by several other experts in the field, who suggest changes and/or make the recommendation to publish the article.

Scholarly Journal vs. Popular Periodicals

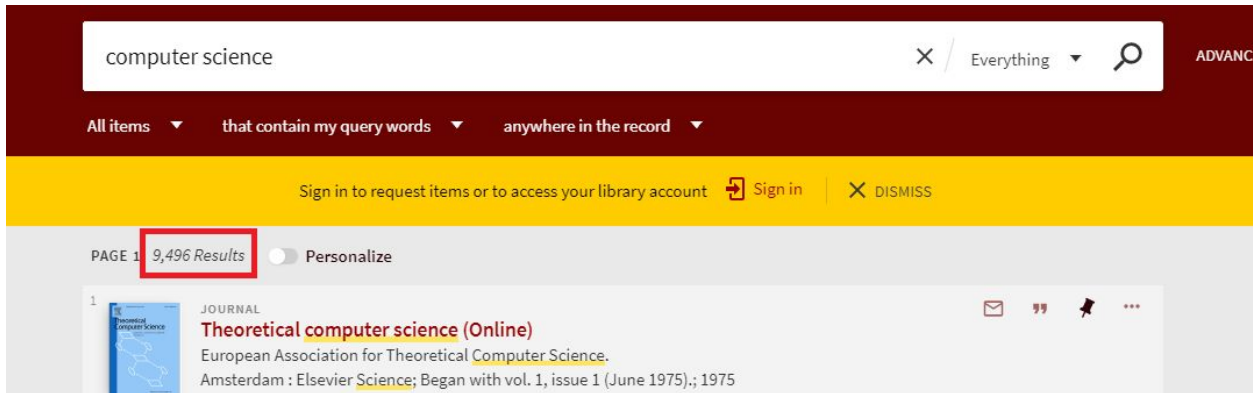
Scholarly Journal Article	Popular Magazine Article
Published in an academic journal, described also as refereed or peer-reviewed.	Published in a popular, general interest, or news magazine.
Author is an expert on the topic or a scholar.	Author may be a lay reporter.
The piece is written to a specialized audience of peers or students.	The audience includes the general audience
Includes: in text citations of sources or footnotes, and bibliography	Sources may not be cited formally
Vocabulary is complex and technical	Vocabulary is familiar, non-technical
Graphics are used to illustrate a point	Graphics are used for visual impact
Titles may include the words <i>Journal</i> , <i>Review</i> , or <i>Annals</i> ; and/or refer to a field of study. Examples: <i>Anthropology & Education Quarterly</i> , <i>Journal of Higher Education</i> .	Titles are often general, usually catchier. Examples: <i>People</i> , <i>Newsweek</i> , <i>GQ</i>
Published monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually	Published weekly or monthly.

<https://dornsife.usc.edu/writingcenter/handouts/>

Assignment

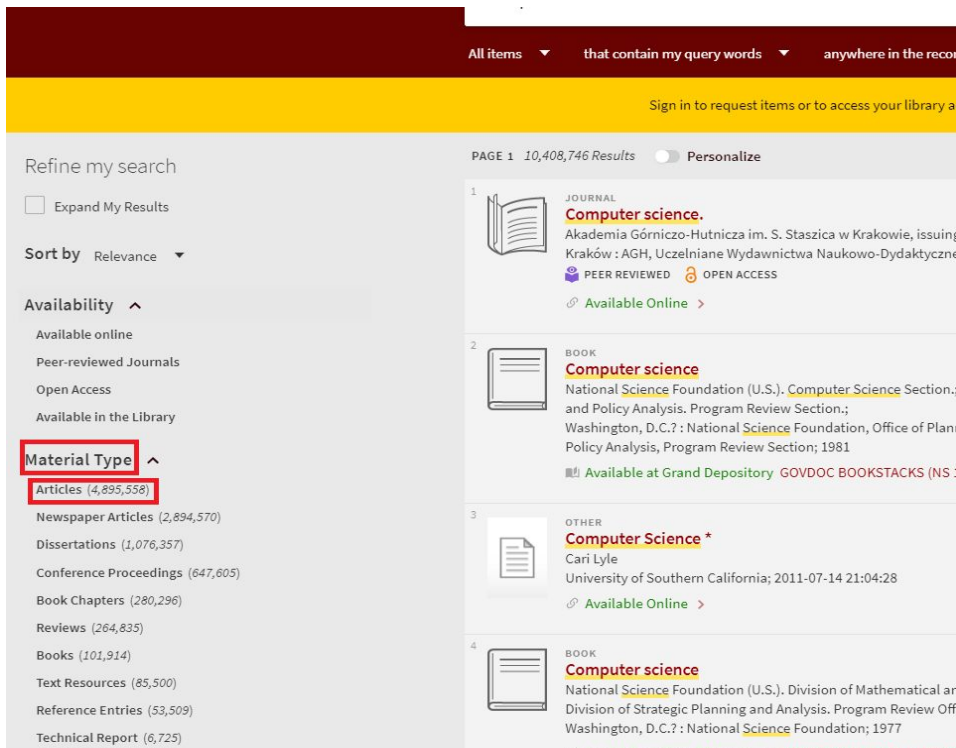
1. Go to **libraries.usc.edu**. This is the USC Libraries home page.
2. In the red square, search for **robotics**.
3. List how many **results** you get here: _____

Example of where to find the total number of results:



4. Under **Material Type** (left hand side), select **Articles**. This is an example of **refining your search**.

Example of where to find material type:



5. List how many article results you get here: _____
6. Continue to refine your search for only **Peer-reviewed Journals** and list your results here: _____

Example of how to refine your search to only peer-reviewed journals:

The screenshot displays a search interface with the following elements:

- Active filters:** Articles (with a close button), a reset button, and a "Refine my search" button (highlighted with a red box).
- Expand My Results:** A checkbox that is currently unchecked.
- Sort by:** Relevance (with a dropdown arrow).
- Availability:** A section with a title "Availability" (highlighted with a red box) and three options: "Available online", "Peer-reviewed Journals" (highlighted with a red box), and "Open Access".
- Date:** A section with a title "Date" (with an up arrow) and a range from 1800 to 2019, with a "Refine" button.
- Subject:** A section with a title "Subject" (with an up arrow) and a list of subjects with their respective result counts: Computer Science (626,388), Engineering (550,333), Mathematics (256,162), Algorithms (222,394), and Software & Systems (175,615). A "Show More" link is at the bottom.
- Search Results:** The top right corner shows "PAGE 1 4,895,558 Results". The results list includes:
 - Item 1: An article titled "Turing The co..." by Lamport, from the journal "Communications of the ACM". It is marked as "Found compute" and "PEER REVIEWED".
 - Item 2: An article titled "Compu..." by Hoffman, from the journal "Communications of the ACM". It is marked as ". thou news Co..." and "PEER REVIEWED".
 - Item 3: An article titled "A neuro..." by Dasgupta, from the journal "Science". It is marked as "PEER REVIEWED".
 - Item 4: The start of another article from "Communications of the ACM".

7. **Refine your search** to only show results from the last five years and list number of results: _____

Example of how to refine your search by date

The image shows a search results interface with a yellow header bar. On the left, under "Active filters", there are three filter tags: "Articles" with an 'X' to remove it, "Peer-reviewed Journals" with an 'X', and "Years: 2014-2019" with an 'X'. Below these is a "reset" button with a circular arrow icon. The "Refine my search" section includes an unchecked checkbox for "Expand My Results", a "Sort by" dropdown menu set to "Relevance", and an "Availability" section with "Available online" and "Open Access" options. A red rectangular box highlights the "Date" refinement section, which contains a table with "from" and "to" columns, the values "2014" and "2019", and a "Refine" button. Below this is a "Subject" section showing "Engineering (187,067)". On the right side, the page is labeled "PAGE 1 880," and there are three numbered thumbnail images of journal covers: "1" showing a stack of books, "2" showing a science journal cover, and "3" showing a PNAS journal cover.

