I Swear, It's Just Research!

Hiding bodies, launching things into space, forging swords, et cetera.

August 17, 2024. When Worlds Collide, Calgary, AB. Cheryl D. Bain theunrestrictedlibrarian.com



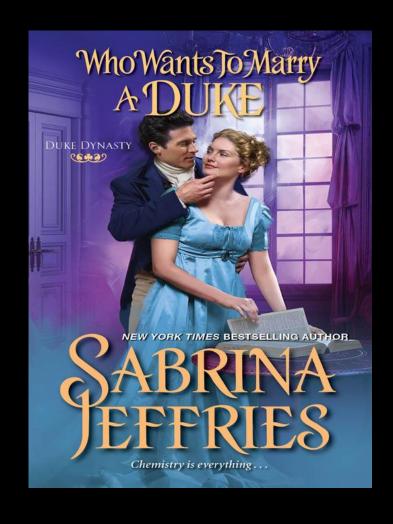
WHAT AM I HERE TO TALK ABOUT TODAY?

- Why is research important?
- How to recognize an untrustworthy information source
- Sources for answering quick questions
- Types of free information
- Online collections of free sources for in-depth research
 - Books, magazines, catalogues, etc. (Hathi Trust)
 - Educational resources (Open Educational Resources Commons)
- Other (almost) free resources

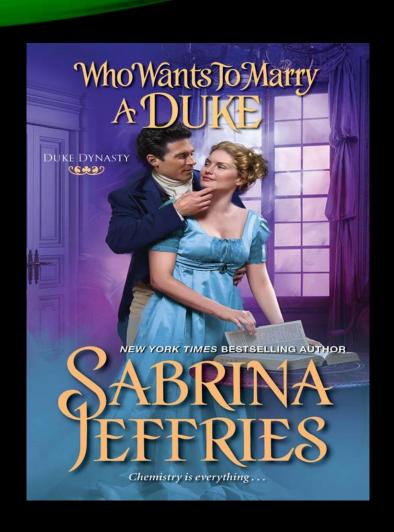
Why is research important?

Discussion (2 min max)

WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU GET THE RESEARCH WRONG?







WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU GET THE RESEARCH WRONG?

For the next hour, he got to unpack boxes and leave her to examine each item to decide where it went. She wore a look of pure bliss as she moved from table to shelf, arranging and organizing and setting up equipment that had been broken down for the journey.

There were names of ingredients he'd never heard of—aqua regia, nitrate of potash, muriatic acid, green vitriol, salt of wormwood, spirit of ether, and a dozen other mysterious compounds

Chapter 6

WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN YOU GET THE RESEARCH WRONG?

Ways Owen or Claire should have been killed by volcano:

• At least three times...I got too distracted by the errors to keep track.

There were more errors that slipped by me...

 https://www.iflscience.com/theres-a-hugescientific-problem-with-jurassic-world-fallenkingdom-and-it-has-nothing-to-do-with-dinosaurs-48272



How can you tell if a source is trustworthy?

Discussion (2 min max)

Are you using CRAAP(P)?

Non-Writers

Currency

Relevance

Authority

Accuracy

Purpose

Writers

Currency

Relevance

Authority

Accuracy

Purpose

Plot

THE CRAAP TEST – QUESTIONS TO ASK



Current	How recently was the information created or published?
Relevant	Is the information related to your topic? Is it at the level of detail that you need?
Authority	Who created the material, and do they know what they are talking about?
Accurate	Does the creator seem biased? Did they make any obvious errors?
Purpose	Why was this created?

CURRENCY

How recently was the information created or published?

- Different topic become out-of-date at different speeds
 - Weather reports vs. 1918 population of Canada





CURRENCY



As a Writer:

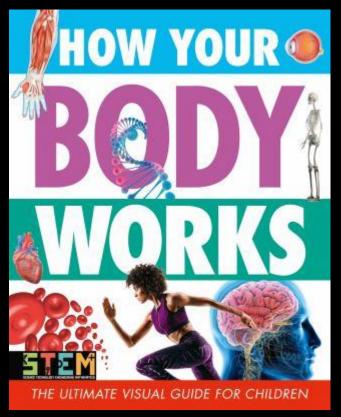
- Do you need to know both what was current knowledge during the story and what we currently know?
 - We call it "World War I," but would my character?
 - Medical terms especially will shift

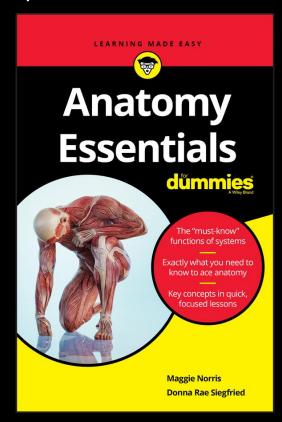
Image by <u>Jakub Luksch</u> from <u>Pixabay</u> Image by <u>Lukas Bieri</u> from <u>Pixabay</u>

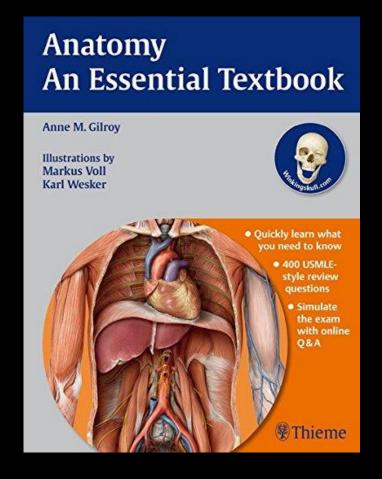


RELEVANCE

Is it at the level of detail that you need?







https://calgary.bibliocommons.com/v2/record/S95C1359170
https://www.dummies.com/book/academics-the-arts/science/anatomy/anatomy-essentials-for-dummies-292803/https://ucalgary.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/permalink/01UCALG_INST/1rf6mu5/alma991029856002704336

RELEVANCE

Writers

No significant differences in evaluating relevance



Image by <u>Kardono Kardono</u> from <u>Pixabay</u>

AUTHORITY



"On the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog."

AUTHORITY

- Who wrote it? (Individual or organization)
 - "About" page on a website or in a book
 - YouTube has an "about" section if you click on the channel information
- What qualifications do they have?
- Just because someone is an authority in one area, doesn't make them an authority in all areas!

AUTHORITY

Writers

- Would my character trust and/or agree with this source?
 - Yes, you can intentionally get things wrong! You need to choose when!



Image by <u>Lukas Bieri</u> from <u>Pixabay</u>

ACCURACY

- What is the tone of the information?
 - Does the creator seem biased?
 - Does it rely more on opinion than fact, more on emotion than logic.
 - Does it contain extensive flattery of people who agree with them, and personal attacks against those who disagree
- Do other sources agree with what you are reading?
- Look out for basic factual errors and/or grammar and spelling errors!



Image by <u>Clker-Free-Vector-Images</u> from <u>Pixabay</u>

ACCURACY

Writers

- Was this believed to be accurate in the time I am setting my story?
- Would my character believe it is accurate for other reasons?



Image by <u>Clker-Free-Vector-Images</u> from <u>Pixabay</u>



PURPOSE

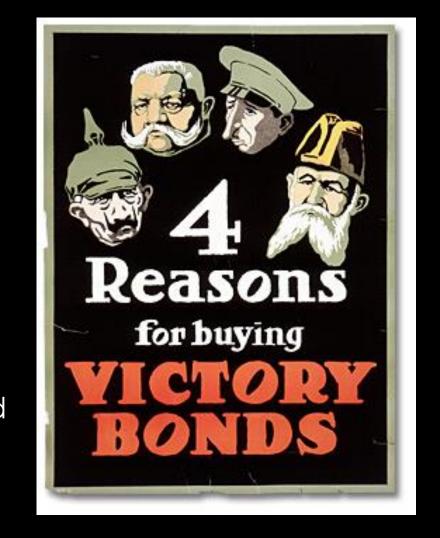
Why was this created?

- To teach?
- To entertain?
- To sell something?
- To further an agenda the creator has?
- A combination?

PURPOSE

Writers

- If you are bringing some specific information source into your world, how would your character interact with it?
- Eg: would they pick up on propaganda? Would they react negatively to it?



https://www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/explore/online/posters/index.aspx

PLOT

Writers only

- Is getting this correct critical to the plot, or am I just being a perfectionist?
- How likely is it that someone will notice and care that it is incorrect?
- Do you want your readers to lose sleep?

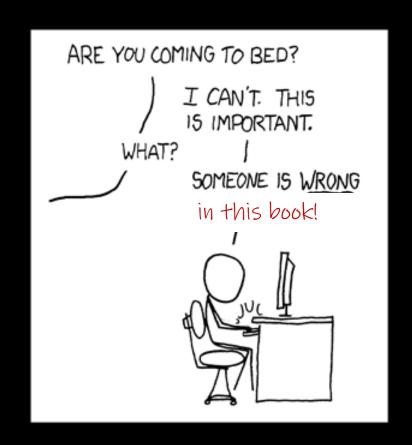


Source: https://xkcd.com/386/

PLOT

Writers only

- Is getting this correct critical to the plot, or am I just being a perfectionist?
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Source: https://xkcd.com/386/

MORE ABOUT EVALUATING INFO SOURCES

- University of Alberta
 https://pressbooks.openeducationalberta.ca/libraryskills200/chapter/evaluat
 ing-resources/
- University of Calgary https://libguides.ucalgary.ca/c.php?g=630437&p=4404569
- Central Michigan University
 https://libguides.cmich.edu/web_research/craap

Sources for answering quick questions



SHOULD YOU USE WIKIPEDIA?

"the average science entry in Wikipedia contained around four inaccuracies; Britannica, about three"

Nature **438**, 900–901 (2005). https://doi.org/10.1038/438900a

"...when the stakes are low (you need a piece of information to settle a bet with your roommate, or you want to get a basic sense of what something means before starting more in-depth research), you may get what you need from Wikipedia."

Harvard University Library https://usingsources.fas.harvard.edu/what's-wrong-wikipedia



ONLINE ENCYCLOPEDIA: SIMPLE WIKIPEDIA

Wikipedia entry too complicated?

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

"...makes Simple English articles a good way to understand difficult articles from the ordinary English Wikipedia. If someone cannot understand an idea in complex English, they can read the Simple English article."

https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:About#Simple_English

MEDICAL INFORMATION

- https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions
- https://www.nih.gov/health-information
- https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/healthy-living/your-health/alphabetical-list.html
- https://www.webmd.com/
- https://www.drugs.com/ and https://www.webmd.com/drugs/2/index
 - US centric, drugs may have different names

Online collections of free sources for in-depth research:

Books, magazines, catalogues, etc.

Books, catalogues, magazines! Oh, my! Hathi Trust

- https://www.hathitrust.org/
- 18 million+ digitized books, magazines, etc.
- "Reading access to the fullest extent allowable by U.S. and international copyright law"
 - Mostly stuff originally published 95+ years ago
- Global in scope
 - Several Canadian institutions (Including the University of Calgary and The University of Alberta) are contributors



https://www.hathitrust.org/about/mission-history/

https://www.hathitrust.org/about/

https://www.hathitrust.org/member-libraries/member-list/



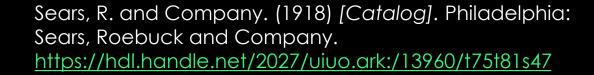
WHO WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED?

- Historical fiction writers
 - Want to write something like Pride and Prejudice and Zombies? All the novels are public domain – adapt away!
- Science Fiction writers with time-travel plot lines
- Anyone wanting <u>detailed</u> descriptions & drawings of plants and animals
- People wanting to get into the heads of individuals with older viewpoints
- Tech-savvy ghosts wishing to read things published during their lives

HathiTrust



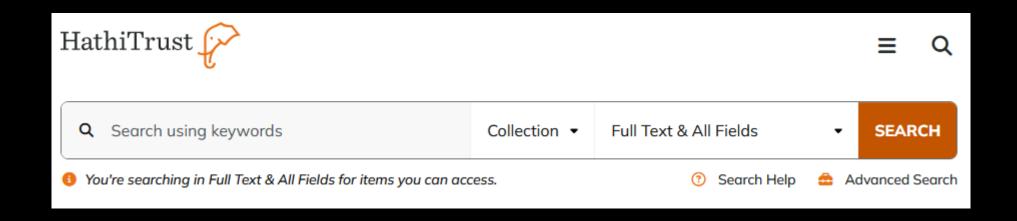


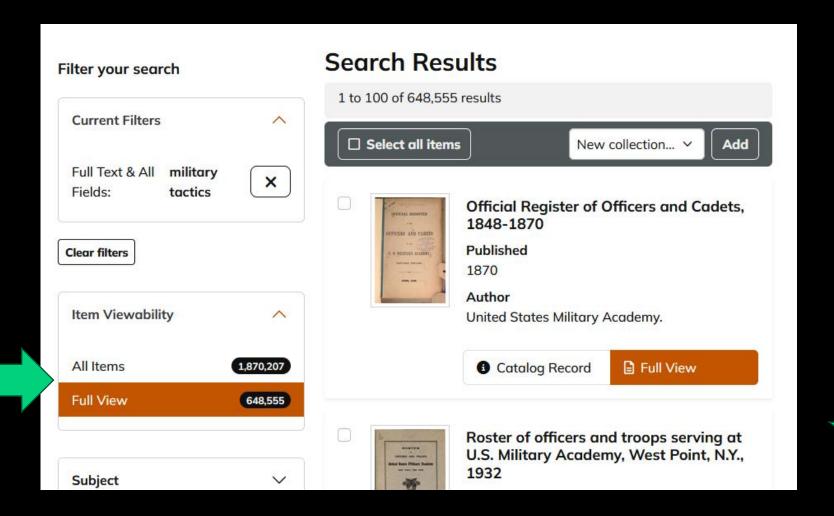


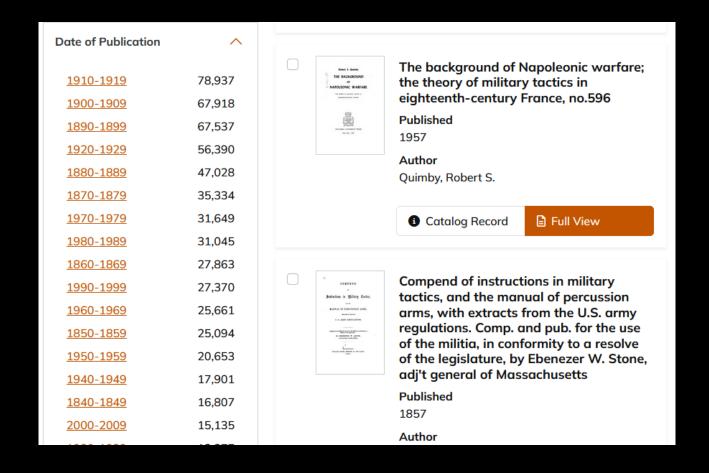
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

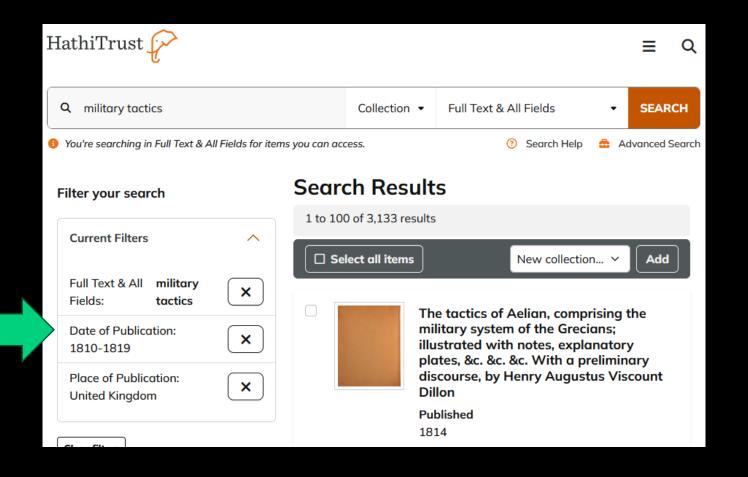
Sowerby, G. B. (1841). The conchological illustrations. London: Sowerby

https://hdl.handle.net/2027/mdp.39015061993237

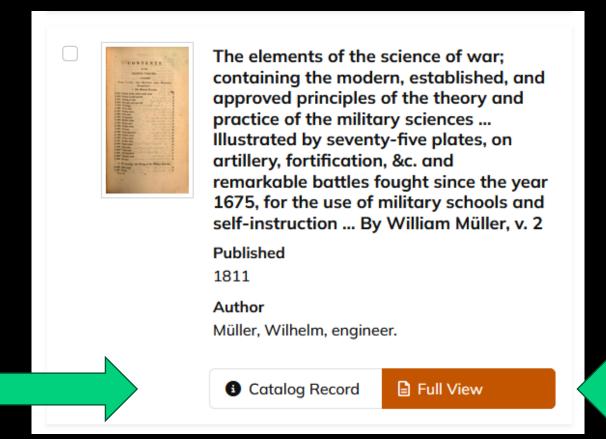




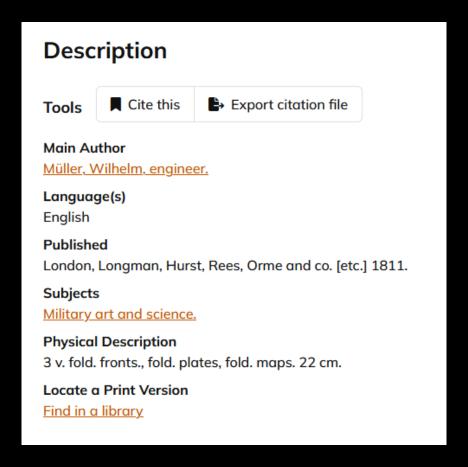




SEARCHING HathiTrust



SEARCHING HathiTrust



Other Open Sources for books, catalogues, & magazines

- Project Gutenberg https://www.gutenberg.org/
 - ~70,000 books
 - Focused on older books that are no longer under copyright (generally published over 95 years ago)
 - Heavy focus on novels & short stories
- Directory of Open Access Books (https://www.doabooks.org/) and Online Library of Open Access Books (https://www.oapen.org/)
 - Two services offered by the same organization slightly different search results
 - Academic, peer reviewed.
 - Global scope.
 - Primarily focused on books published after ~1950

Online collections of free sources for educational content:

Modern textbooks, lecture slides, etc.



TEXTBOOKS, LECTURES, ETC. OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES COMMONS

- https://oercommons.org/
- Over 50,000 resources
- Mostly published in the last 20 years
- Many resources associated with taxpayer funded places (eg: public school boards, publicly-funded post-secondary education
- Huge range in technical levels (K → post-graduate)



WHO WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED?

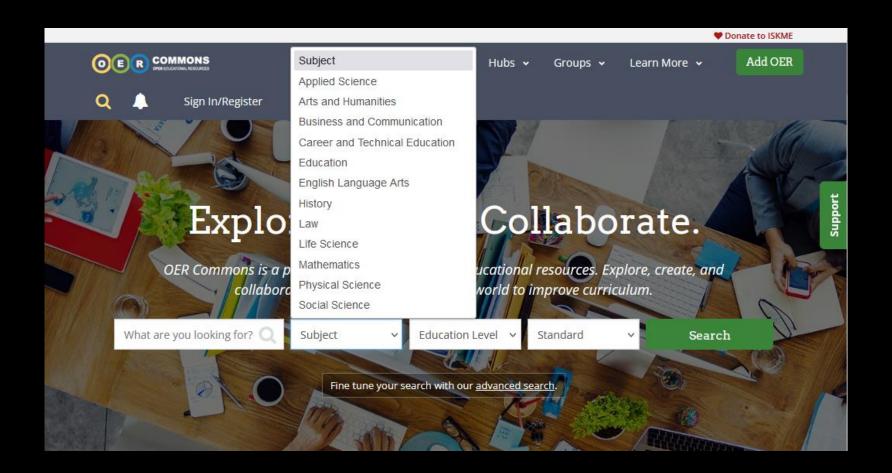
- Most fiction genres, edutainment content creators
- People who learn better from resources designed for teaching/learning
- Parents looking for help & alternate learning resources for kids struggling to learn something
- Aspiring supervillains kicked out of post-secondary education for...ethically dubious conduct



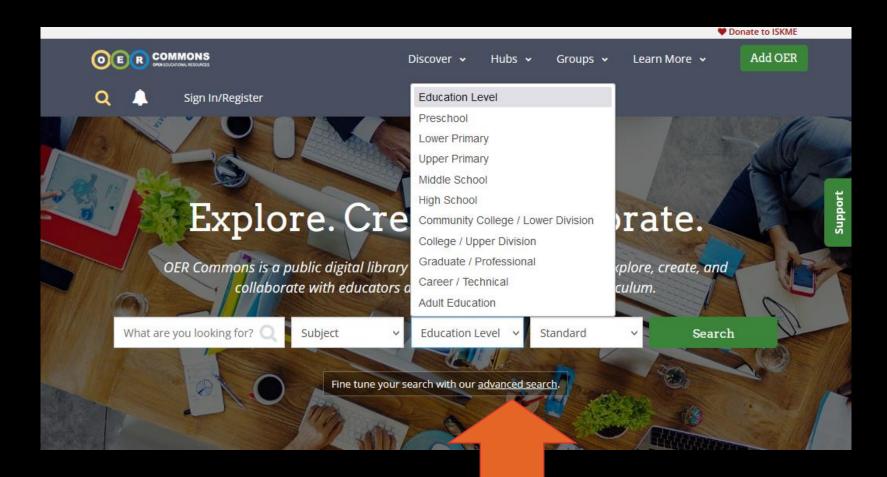


https://oercommons.org/

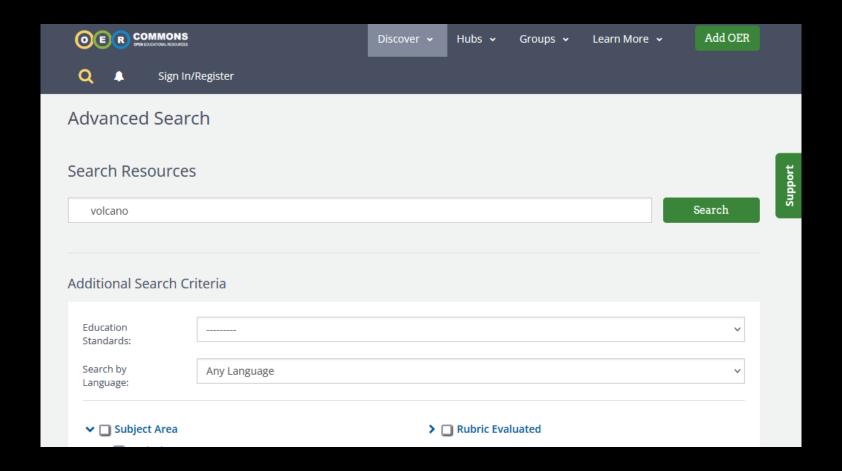
SEARCHING OER COMMONS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



SEARCHING OER COMMONS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



SEARCHING OF R COMMONS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

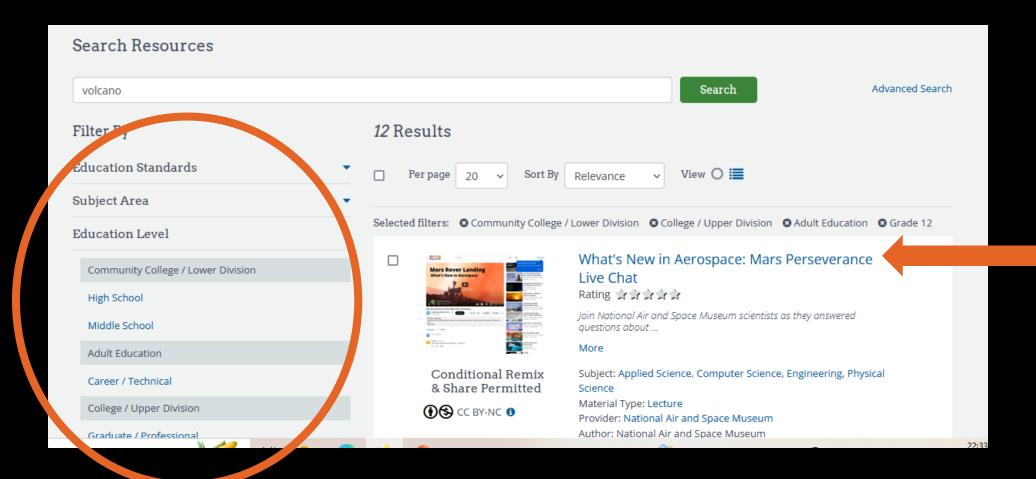


SEARCHING OF R COMMONS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Mathematics > Upper Primary Physical Science Social Science ▼ □ Educational Use ▼ ☐ High School Curriculum/Instruction Grade 9 Assessment Grade 10 Professional Development Grade 11 ☐ Informal Education Grade 12 Other ✓ Community College / Lower Division College / Upper Division ▼ ☐ Material Type what's this? ☐ Graduate / Professional **Activities & Assignments** Career / Technical ☐ Activity/Lab Adult Education Assessment ☐ Homework/Assignment Media Format

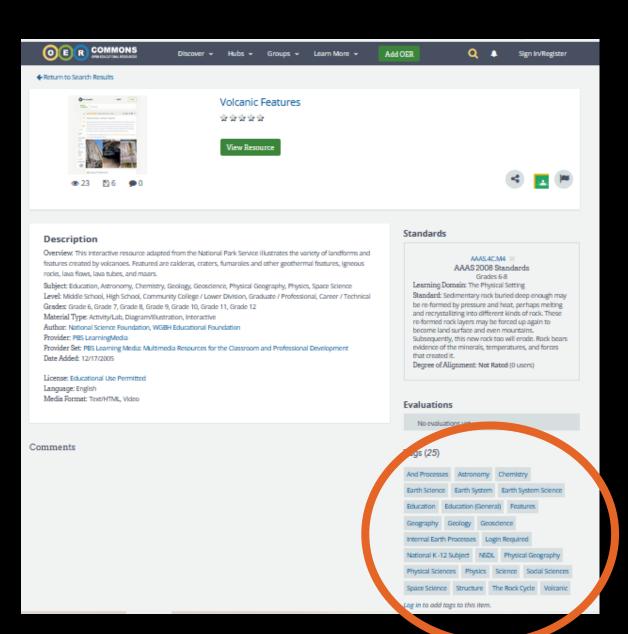
SEARCHING OF R





SEARCHING





SEARCHING OER COMMONS OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

 Note: it does not search the entire full text of the resource – the search tool seems to only look through the same stuff you see in the item record. Search related terms!

TEXTBOOKS, LECTURES, ETC. OTHER OPEN EDUCATION DATABASES

Canadian

- Open Education Alberta https://pressbooks.openeducationalberta.ca/catalog/
- BC Open Campus https://collection.bccampus.ca/search/
- eCampus Ontario https://openlibrary.ecampusontario.ca/

<u>International</u>

- Merlot https://www.merlot.org/merlot/index.htm
- American (Many have Canadian and other content)
- Libre Texts https://commons.libretexts.org/catalog
- Open Textbook Library https://open.umn.edu/opentextbooks
- Open Stax https://openstax.org/subjects



RECRUITING YOUR ARMY FOR GLOBAL DOMINATION!

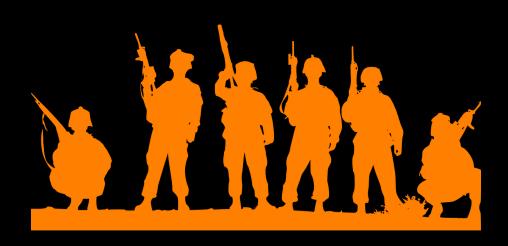


Image by <u>Clker-Free-Vector-Images</u> from <u>Pixabay</u>

RECRUITING YOUR ARMY OF EXPERTS



- Talk to people around you!
- Join a combat-sport club (fencing, karate, etc.)
- Attend Alumni events!
 Convince you partner to
 take you to their alumni
 events!

Other (almost) free resources

USUALLY FREE IF YOU HAVE A LIBRARY CARD

Interlibrary Loans (ILL)

- Request physical items from other libraries be shipped to your library.
- Works for "known items" it exists, but your library doesn't have it.
 - Ask your librarian to help you track it down
- Usually successful, however, the library you request from may refuse to send the item.



DO YOU HAVE ALUMNI ACCESS TO \$\$\$\$ RESOURCES?

 Many post-secondary libraries now give some access to online resources to Alumni! Check it out!

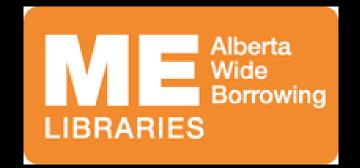


Image by <u>Mohamed Hassan</u> from <u>Pixabay</u>

ALBERTA LIBRARY RESOURCES

Free to all Albertans with a library card!

- Borrow from Alberta Public Libraries ME card: <u>https://melibraries.ca/help.php</u>
- Borrow from Alberta post-secondary libraries <u>https://www.thealbertalibrary.ca/tal-card.html</u>





Alberta Legal Information sources: mostly free to Albertans

https://lawlibrary.ab.ca/services/services-to-the-public/
 Note: there are similar services in other Provinces & Countries in praries



WRITING SOUNDTRACKS

National Jukebox

- https://www.loc.gov/collections/natio nal-jukebox/about-this-collection/
- Public Domain Recordings from the US (mostly pre-1925)

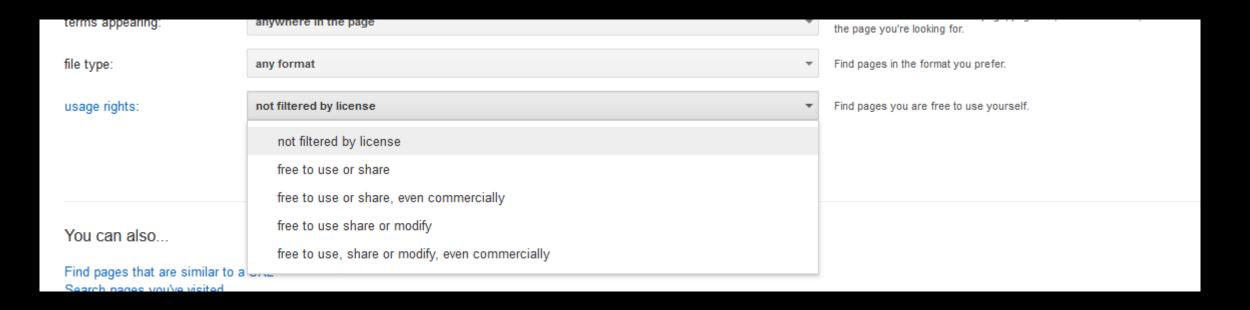
Radiooooo.com

- "Musical Time Machine"
- Search by decade and country
- I don't know the copyright status of the music on this page! Listen, but proceed with caution if you are a podcaster



When All Else Fails: Google It!

- Google advanced search: free to use or share
- https://www.google.ca/advanced_search



QUESTIONS?

Download these slides:

Contact Cheryl:

https://theunrestrictedlibrarian.com/contact/



ACADEMIC SOURCES DOAJ

- Directory of Open Access Journals https://doaj.org/
- Over 20,000 peer-reviewed journal titles, over 10,000,000 articles
- Global coverage, broad range of subjects
- Academic articles
- Roughly 75% of articles are less than 25 years old







https://opendissertations.org/



Millions of masters and doctoral theses, across dozens of subject areas, languages, etc.



VERY broad subject areas. If you can imagine a person getting a graduate degree in it, there is likely at least one thesis on the topic



Can be much, much more technical than you want or need

OPEN DISSERTATIONS: HOW TO DOWNLOAD

◆Result List Refine Search ◆ 8 of 1,238 →

"Dead, to begin with": The Role of **Ghosts** in Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol

Authors: MacNeil, Catherine

Committee

Brown, Collier; Lynch, Deidre

Members:

Year:

2022

Document Type: Thesis or Dissertation

Subjects: A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens
Christianity
Ghosts
Gothic
Spiritualism
English literature

Literature Spirituality

Language: English

Summary: An exploration of the role of the ghosts in Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol", specifically considering the

influence of religion, the eighteenth century Gothic tradition, and the nineteenth century ghost story on Dickens's choices when crafting the novel. This work seeks to examine how and why the ghosts determine the course of

Scrooge's future. Essentially – why ghosts?

University: Harvard University

URL: https://nrs.harvard.edu/URN-3:HUL.INSTREPOS:37371547

Accession Number: ddu.oai.dash.harvard.edu.1/37371547

