

GESC290-OC Researching the Waste Audit assignment

We'll begin our search for scholarly (peer-reviewed) articles using the ProQuest database, Advanced search.

[Geography and Environmental Sciences @ ProQuest](#)

Since our topic is pretty specific, we can search on that specific phrase: "waste audit".

Note: the use of " " around a term tells the search engine to look for the exact phrase.

To ensure you get scholarly articles, check the "peer-reviewed" box below the search boxes.

Then, further below the search boxes, make sure you select "Scholarly Journals" as source type, and "Article" as the document type.

Under the Result page options at bottom, sort your results by "relevance" and check "Exclude duplicate documents".

Note the drop down menus at right beside the search boxes.

These tell the search engine in which fields to search.

The default search is "Anywhere except full text."

This means that the full text of the article is not searched.

The abstract, article title, subject headings, and other fields are searched.

The search results should be very precise and specific.

This search doesn't retrieve too many results.

This set is manageable, however.

To redo the search with different parameters, click "Modify search".

We could modify the search from the default to instead search "Anywhere."

We now get more results.

They may not be as relevant, however.

You may want to add a secondary topic to narrow the results.

For example, waste audits on a university campus.

In this case, add the terms "University" or "College" in the search box below.

("College" is often used in the U.S. as a synonym for universities).

Click the Abstract/Details link or Show Abstract link at far right to see if there are additional subjects you might use in your search.

Some additional tips: Use the Get It! button to find full text articles.

Don't check the Limit to: Full text box in your search, it will limit your results.

Use other databases on the [GES Subject page](#) for your research, especially GEOBASE and Web of Science

If you search in Omni, make sure you put connectors (boolean operators) in ALL CAPs, as in the example at right, or the search won't work, e.g. "economic instruments" OR "cap and trade".

Questions?

[Contact the Geography Librarian for help](#)