

GESC 391-OC: Article Review Assignment

Search Strategies

This tutorial will guide you through the research process to find 3 articles that relate to wildlife or wildlife management from refereed journals.

Your assignment also notes:

- You are to ensure all of your articles are fairly current (no articles older than 1995).
- Select articles with topics that are of interest to you personally and that will allow you to write a good review.

We'll look for articles with those two points in mind.

First, let's start on the Geography and Environmental Studies Subject Guide on the Library website

<https://library.wlu.ca/services/subject/geography-and-environmental-studies>

We'll choose the Geography and Environmental Sciences @ ProQuest database for our initial search.

Many students start their search by typing a question into the search engine as in the example below:

"What are the most recent trends in wildlife management?"

That won't work in our specialized research databases. You will get 0, or very few, results.

It's better to try to think about specific concepts you are interested in before you start searching, and also think of related terms, like the following;

Wildlife AND Management AND trends

Now, let's search in the Geography and Environmental Sciences @ ProQuest database.FIX DATABASE

Our search is fairly straightforward.

We enter our terms as shown below:

Wildlife AND management

Note: we're not entering a question.

To find articles from refereed journals, select the "peer-reviewed" box.

Peer-reviewed is the same as refereed.

Below the Publication Date selector, make sure you select "Scholarly Journals" for Source Type, and "Articles" as Document type.

This is to ensure we keep out book reviews and other documents that aren't research articles.

Lastly, under the Result Page options, select "Relevance" to sort your articles.

We retrieve a lot of results with this search.

One thing we can do to pare down our results is to refine by "Publication Date".

We could select only articles published in the "Last 5 Years" for example.

You could also start with a search on the exact phrase, wildlife management.

Using " " around a phrase indicates you want to search that exact phrase.

We still retrieve a lot of results with this search.

It may be helpful to start with your area of interest.

For example, the management of wildlife in national parks, specifically bears.

The * operator at right is a wildcard and looks for spelling variants, e.g. bear, bears.

You can add additional rows as you need them.

This gives us a much smaller, and more manageable, set of peer-reviewed articles.

We could refine them again by "Last 5 years."

Once you see a relevant article title, click the "Get it!" button or "Full text" links to retrieve full text articles, if available.

Questions?

[Contact the Geography Librarian for help.](#)