BI296 Literature Searching Tutorial Notes

Using Web of Science
- Getting access:
  o Go to library.wlu.ca
  o Option 1
    ▪ Go to the subject guide for Biology
    ▪ Under Main databases click on “Web of Science Core Collection”
  o Option 2
    ▪ Search under Databases for “Web of Science”
- In the database Web of Science
  o Using the drop-down menu in “Select a database”
  o Which database are you in?
  o There is a database for “Web of Science Core Collection”
  o There is another database for “BIOSIS Citation Index”
  o All citations in Web of Science are linked through the reference list and citation counts.
    When an article is written, the reference list is linkable. After the article enters the
database, the number of times that it is cited in future articles is also kept track. You can
click on this as the ‘times cited’.
  o Using advanced search requires you to use ‘field codes’ before the terms you are
    searching
    ▪ TS= topic
    ▪ TI=title
    ▪ AU=author
    ▪ SO=source
  o You can link these field codes and search terms with Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT,
SAME, NEAR)
  o BIOSIS advanced search has the search code TA=Taxonomy which is very useful for
searching the literature for a particular organism/plant/bacteria etc.

Using synonyms for keyword searching
- Databases require nouns to search
- [http://www.synonym.com/](http://www.synonym.com/) can help you find additional synonyms
- Search for articles that you have found – they sometimes include a list of author keywords – you
can use these in your search
Additional Notes on Library Resources

Getting the Full-text of an article
Click on the “Get it! @ Laurier” button. You will move into a ‘sfx’ menu (see the URL at the top begins with sfx). If there is more than one resource listed, check the dates. Otherwise click through to the full-text.

InterLibrary Loan
Sometimes you need to use materials that are not available from the library. From the main library menu click on drop down menu for “Services” and click on “Request from other Libraries”. On this page, you can sign on to RACER using your bar code as a login and your lastname in lower case as the password. Search for the article that you want and it will be delivered to you.

Journal Finder
A ‘must’ if you have a journal title or citation that you need to track down. This utility will provide links to the full-text of journal articles.

Using Mendeley
Mendeley.com is a cloud based citation management system. You can sign up for free and then you can use the import tools to get the citation from online into your own database. Using the Word tool you can connect to Mendeley from Word and automatically create a bibliography.

If you need help
Stop by the information desk as you enter the library, use the Ask Us chat box, email infouser@wlu.ca or call the library (519-884-0710 x 3222). Please note that the majority of the information staff are not experts in biology so you may have to provide background information for content questions. You can always contact Debbie Chaves, Science Librarian at dchaves@wlu.ca.