

*Efficient ways to immediately find the paper of the desired topic.*

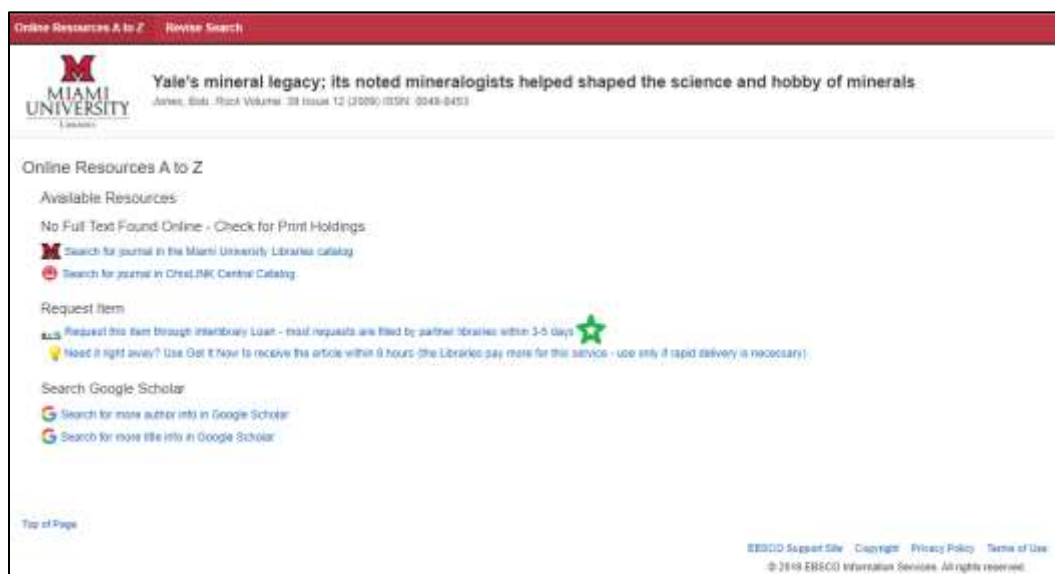
There really is not a way to do this 'immediately'. To be more efficient, I'd recommend using subject specific database as those give you more focused topics to the discipline in general, so engineering databases in this case. There are also some searching tips you can use to be more efficient such as Boolean operators, truncation, and proximity operators. The MU Librarians have made some short videos on each of these, at this [YouTube playlist](#).

*I'd like to know more about any physical copies the library carries.*

We have a lot of choices for physical materials, be they books, DVDs, ect. You can search for these from the library's home page, [www.lib.miamioh.edu](http://www.lib.miamioh.edu) under the *Books & More* tab. There is a short YouTube video on how to do this, [linked here](#). You might see some references and or links to [OhioLINK](#) while you are looking. OhioLINK is a shared consortium of academic libraries across the state with a sharing agreement; this means that you can borrow books and other physical material Miami doesn't have from these other libraries. It takes some time, but it'll be delivered to campus for you at no cost. You might also see references or links to [WorldCat](#) and or InterLibrary Loan (ILL). See next Q&A for more on ILL.

*I'd like to know more about InterLibrary Loan*

InterLibrary Loan, or ILL, is very similar to OhioLINK just on a worldwide scale; WorldCat (short for catalog) is the catalog to search for physical items you can borrow – and again we can do this at no cost, but it does take some time. ILL is also how we request articles we don't have access to. If you click on a yellow find it button for an article and get a page like the one shown here, letting you know "No Full Text Found Online", then there will be a link to ILL, indicated with the green star. If you follow that link, and sign into your ILL account (it is separate from your main library account and will need setup, with your Miami email, if you haven't used this service before), then it'll fill in all the article's information for you in the request form. You can also just go to the [ILL login](#) and enter in the details yourself. In 3-5 days when the PDF is ready, you'll get a notice to sign into your ILL to retrieve it. This can be a bit complex the first time, so ask for help if you need it, and or see [this YouTube video](#).



*Which databases contain the most introductory level material?*

I would recommend [Knovel](#). You can get to this content in Knovel itself and also from [Engineering Village](#), as Knovel is under that umbrella database along with Compendex and GeoBase. Knovel has a lot of neat engineering tools including physical property information, unit converters and interactive equations, as well as some e-books for introductory level material. This could help you explore the topics a bit and come up with some keywords, which a great approach to start with. However, your assignment in this course was to get journal articles, which would be in Compedex, not Knovel, so using both would be best.

*I'd like to know more about scientific writing. I think the writing center could help.*

Yes, the [Howe Writing Center](#) located in King Library can help. We also have a good variety of books on the subject, physical and digital books. You can search for these in the library's catalog. Here's a link to a search on ['scientific writing'](#) and here's one for ['writing engineer'](#). I have some suggestions on the CPB Subject Guide's page on [Writing & Citing](#) – also on that page is the full version of the handout I gave out during class.

*I'd like to know more about SciFinder.*

In addition to being the librarian for CPB, am also the chemistry librarian, and I have a [Subject Guide](#) for that too. You can find information and links to SciFinder there, including the one to create an account (they are one of the only databases that requires you to have an account, with your Miami email). On the [CHM Writing & Citing page](#), I have a guide to doing literature reviews using SciFinder which should help quite a bit. Please email, call or stop by my office if you have questions or want a live demo.

*I'd like to know more about using databases.*

This is a bit general, so I'm not sure what to recommend. The guide to literature reviews I have on the CPB Subject Guide's [Writing & Citing page](#), might be helpful. It walks you through the literature review process we discussed in class, with more detail and some screen shots of different engineering databases. Usually there is a nice help section on each database with some custom tips for searching, and sometimes videos too. You are always welcome to email, phone or stop by my office with any questions or to simply walkthrough some databases /searching together.