

## Scholarly Research: Five Steps

Here are five essential tips to get you started using Canada's largest research library effectively. Consider making the University of Toronto Libraries' home page your default starting page for quick access to scholarly resources.

*University of Toronto Libraries:* <http://www.library.utoronto.ca>

*Students' research page:* <http://discover.library.utoronto.ca/students/research>

### 1. Conduct a literature search

Once you have identified your research topic and clarified your research question, how do you locate the best scholarly resources on that topic? The library catalogue is an excellent starting point to locate items in our collection. By conducting a literature search, you will be able to find and evaluate the current state of knowledge on your topic in your academic discipline. We can provide you with the skills to conduct and document a literature search.

*Access the library catalogue on the UofT Libraries' homepage:* <http://www.library.utoronto.ca>

*Searching Journal Indexes:* <http://content.library.utoronto.ca/robarts/reference/ilu/searchjournals>

### 2. Access research resources by subject

Are you looking for background information, research guides, or journal articles on your topic? From the Libraries' home page, select the *Search for Articles* tab for a list of e-resources by subject, or go to the following web sites:

*Find the best research resources:* <http://main.library.utoronto.ca/eir/articlesbytopic.cfm>

*Research Guides by Topic:* [http://main.library.utoronto.ca/MyUTL/guides/library\\_guides.cfm](http://main.library.utoronto.ca/MyUTL/guides/library_guides.cfm)

### 3. Locate peer-reviewed or refereed articles

Articles that appear in peer reviewed journals have been evaluated by a group of experts in the field to ensure they meet specific criteria prior to publication. Your professor may ask you to use peer reviewed articles. To learn about the peer review process and how to identify if a journal is peer reviewed go to *Finding peer reviewed articles & journals*: <http://content.library.utoronto.ca/gerstein/subjectguides/peerreview/peerreview.html>

### 4. Use RefWorks to manage your results

With RefWorks you can gather and sort citations and create bibliographies. Create a RefWorks account and go through the basic tutorials at the RefWorks website, best accessed through the Quick Links menu on the Libraries' home page.

*RefWorks:* <http://refworks.scholarsportal.info/Refworks/>

### 5. Contact a librarian—five different ways!

All of the University of Toronto Libraries offer research advice. Contact us in-person, by telephone, chat, email, or book a research consultation.

*Contact us:* [http://discover.library.utoronto.ca/utl\\_help/contact-us](http://discover.library.utoronto.ca/utl_help/contact-us)

If you are working late at night, then try these short tutorials to get you started.

*Help me write my paper!* <http://www.library.utoronto.ca/gerstein/paper/index.html>

## The University of Toronto Libraries Home Page

The University of Toronto Libraries home page is your starting point for research resources. The *Catalogue* tab provides access to the Libraries' holdings of books, journals, DVDs, government document, and much more. The *Search for Articles* tab accesses background information, research guides, and article databases by broad topic. The *Research Guides* link highlights the best resources for over 160 subject areas. *RefWorks* manages your research citations.

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