TIPS FOR USING LIBRARY RESOURCES

Find the LRC (library) online:

From the SVCC homepage (svcc.edu) open the Departments menu and click on LRC (library). The tabs on the left will lead you to book resources, articles for research, websites to help with your assignments, and other student resources.

EBSCO Discovery Service

- Search box is on the LRC home page
- Searches library catalog and research databases all at once
- Offers limiters that allow you to focus on information format, publication date, topic/subtopic, etc.
- Helpful Research Starter is often the first search result

The SVCC Library Catalog (available from the books & more tab)

Here’s how Basic Search works:
- type your word or phrase into the search box
- choose whether you want to do a general “keyword” search, or be more specific by searching by title, author, or subject
- limit your search to the SVCC catalog, or search all 80+ academic and research libraries that belong to our consortium – I-Share

Advanced Search gives you more options:
- 3 search boxes instead of 1 for greater searching flexibility
- search author, title, or subject field for more focused results
- limit by publication date
- limit by version (print/electronic) or by format (book, video, etc.)
- limit to English (or other language)

What you will find in the online catalog:
- books - print and electronic
- videos - DVD and streaming
- CD’s - music and audiobooks
- magazines and journals but not individual articles

*Remember to return or renew anything you check out from the library by the due date to avoid fines.
Online Research Databases (available from the articles tab)

- are like virtual libraries populated mainly by magazines and journals
- are searchable like the catalog, with Basic and Advanced search functions
- are most commonly used to find articles, but also other types of online documents
- some are more scholarly than others

Examples:

(EBSCO) Academic Search Complete is a multi-subject scholarly database with 4600 journals.

(EBSCO) CINAHL Plus with Full Text provides full text articles from over 770 Nursing and Allied Health journals.

CREDO Reference provides access to thousands of online reference books covering every major topic. It also features helpful Topic Pages that guide you to more resources about your topic and a mind map that links to related topics.

CQ Researcher provides background information on controversial paper topics, including Pros and Cons of the issues and information for further research.

JSTOR is a growing digital library of scholarly (academic) journals. The interface allows searching by author, title, or abstract, but not by subject or keyword. Articles may be read online or downloaded in .pdf format.

*Off-campus use of LRC research databases and eBooks requires authentication through the library proxy server. Username= firstname.mi.lastname and Password = sv + last 4 digits of your Sauk ID.

What do they have in common?

Most, if not all research databases have both Basic and Advanced Search pages that allow searchers to use one or more search terms, and limit search results both before and after doing the search.

Tools to limit search results may include:
- searching specific fields, such as author, title, subject, keyword, or abstract
- publication or document type
- date of publication
- language of publication
- full-text vs. citation information only
- scholarly (peer reviewed) vs. non-scholarly information
- size of document

*Use the tools on the database’s search page to help you retrieve the most helpful results and filter out the rest.

*View the User Assistance tutorials for helpful tips and best use of the catalog and databases.

*Need help? Call 815-835-6247, text AskSVLRC to 66746, e-mail lrc@svcc.edu, or come and see us.