Using databases to locate resources

We will begin locating resources using the Advanced Search page. Type your search term into the box and press search.

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Notice that a broad search like “snakes” will have a large number of results.

In the sidebar, we can refine our search results. For example, you can limit the results to “Peer reviewed” results.

peer review noun
: a process by which a scholarly work (such as a paper or a research proposal) is checked by a group of experts in the same field to make sure it meets the necessary standards before it is published or accepted
http://www.learnersdictionary.com/search/peer review
This returns in a much more manageable number of results.

Another option is to limit the results by publication date. The original results, included all dates available. When we limit the results to those that are more recent, we will again see a more refined set of results.
With the results limited to Peer reviewed results published between 2007 and 2012, we have 90 articles that may provide the information we need.

Another option for locating more resources is to use a resource you have already found that works. Here we are going to select a record for an article.
After clicking on the search result, we see more detailed information about the article. Notice the subject terms. We can use these to locate more resources using search terms that you might not have thought to search with.

Clicking on a term will take you to other articles that have been categorized as being about the same subject.
Another option is to use the “Find Similar Results” feature, located in the sidebar of the detailed article information.

Clicking on this will do a special search which will return resources that may have similar information.
At this point, you can once again apply limits to your results, like peer reviewed articles, and what year the article was published.