

# Faculty of Community Services

## Academic Support & Resource Centre

### Researching and Finding Sources

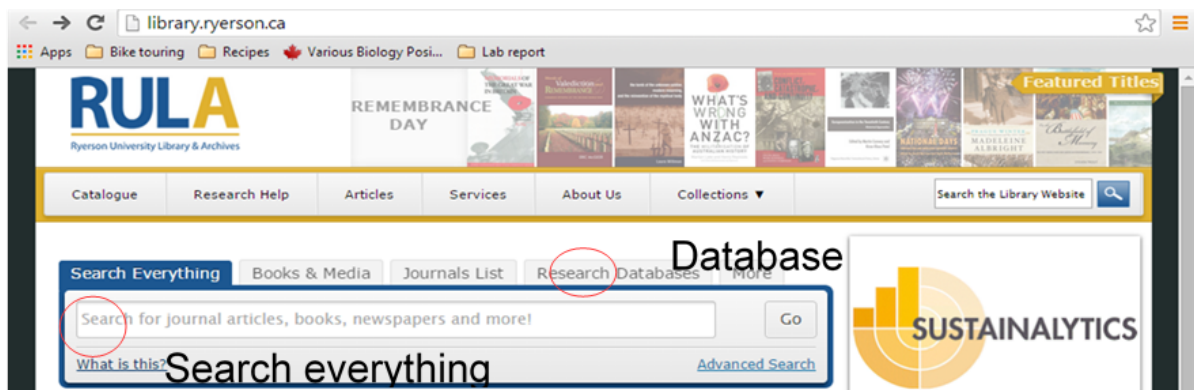
#### WHERE TO FIND SOURCES

##### 1. RULA – search everything

- Simply type your keywords into the “search everything” box at library.ryerson.ca – it's a great place to start

##### 2. RULA – databases

- Finding the results from “search everything” too general? Ask your professor if there is a database they like to use. Databases can be accessed by clicking the tab on the main library page shown below:



##### 3. Online - You can also search Google Scholar or other reputable and academic Internet sites

- Avoid Wikipedia. Although it can be a good place to start informing yourself on a topic, most professors don't allow for its inclusion in your works cited/references list
- Not all journals are freely accessible to the public. The library pays for journal subscriptions that all students can then access through RULA

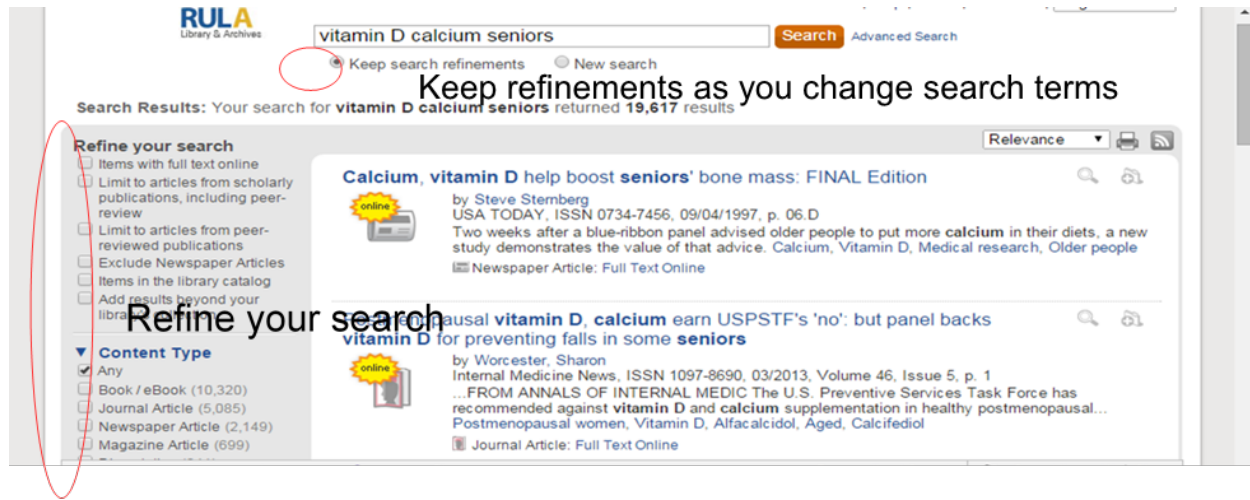
#### REFINING YOUR SOURCES

##### • Peer reviewed/scholarly articles

- Many professors require peer-reviewed or scholarly articles. Simply tick that box on the left hand side of your search. Choose “keep search refinements” to keep those boxes ticked as you try out new search terms
- You may want to use other types of sources, such as newspaper articles, to discuss what the general public may know about your topic or to provide additional background. Most professors will accept a combination of peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed sources

# Faculty of Community Services

## Academic Support & Resource Centre



- **Using new search terms**  
Try various combinations of search terms, or add additional terms to get more specific results
- **Using search operators**

OPERATORS	
“ ”	Direct quotes - Search words quoted in that <b>exact</b> order.
<b>AND</b>	Use multiple search terms to <b>narrow</b> your search. Eg. <i>child AND psychology</i> will give you results that contain both words in the same document. You can use strings of words to narrow your topic further. Eg. <i>child AND psychology AND abuse</i> .
<b>OR</b>	Use multiple search terms to <b>broaden</b> your search. Eg. <i>greenhouse effect OR global warming</i> will yield results that discuss the phenomenon under either term. Use this especially if there are two common terms used to discuss your topic.
<b>NEAR</b>	Locates results with two topics discussed in close <b>proximity</b> . Ex. <i>American Civil War AND journalism NEAR sensationalism</i> will find results about journalism and the American Civil War, with particular regard to sensationalism. By placing <i>sensationalism NEAR journalism</i> , you ensure that they are, in fact, discussed together and not in unrelated contexts.
<b>NOT</b>	Eliminate <b>unwanted results</b> that turn up when searching your topic. For example, when searching for results on learning difficulties that do NOT include autism search “learning difficulties NOT autism.” Use this if most articles on your topic discuss a particular aspect, but you are focusing on something different.