Methodology and the Study of Religion
RELI 409

Library Workshop
Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Éthel Gamache, Librarian
ethel.gamache@concordia.ca

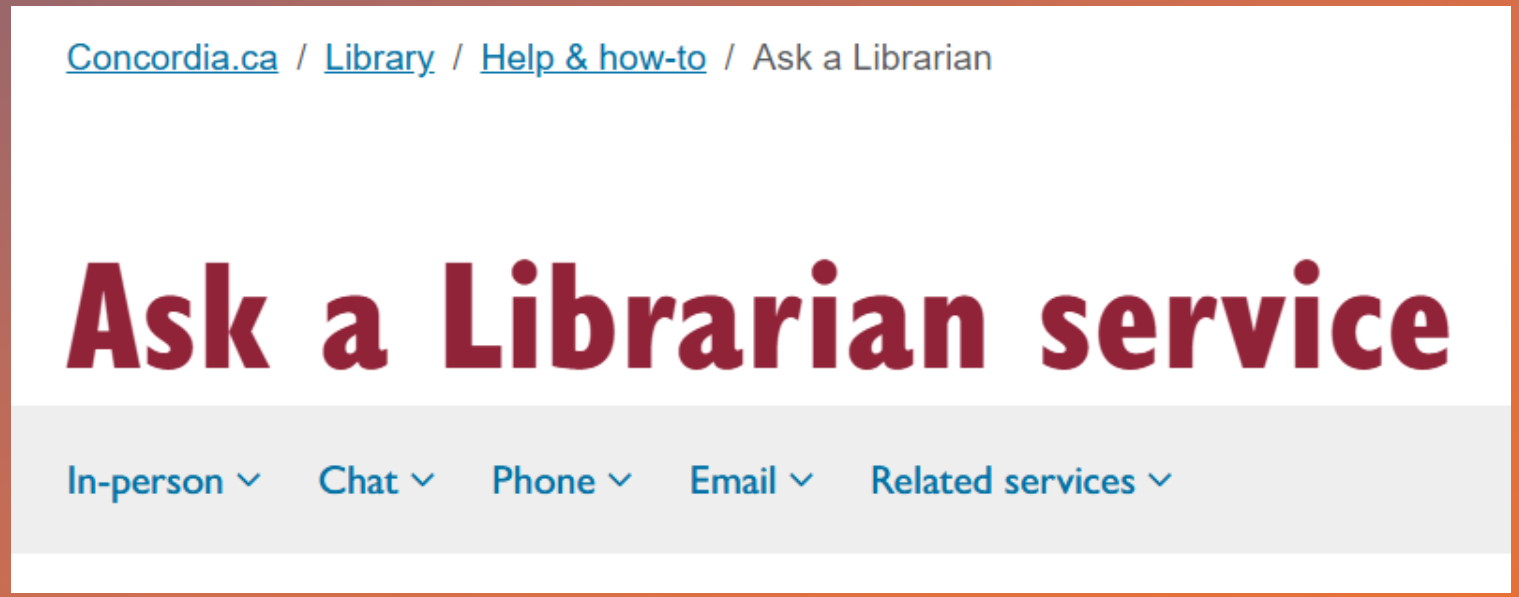
Agenda

Our (possible) plan for tonight:

- Library spaces and services
- Searching for information
  - **Using search operators**
  - Sofia, the Library search tool
  - Databases
    - Academic Search Complete
    - ATLA
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- Citing
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- **Ask a librarian!**

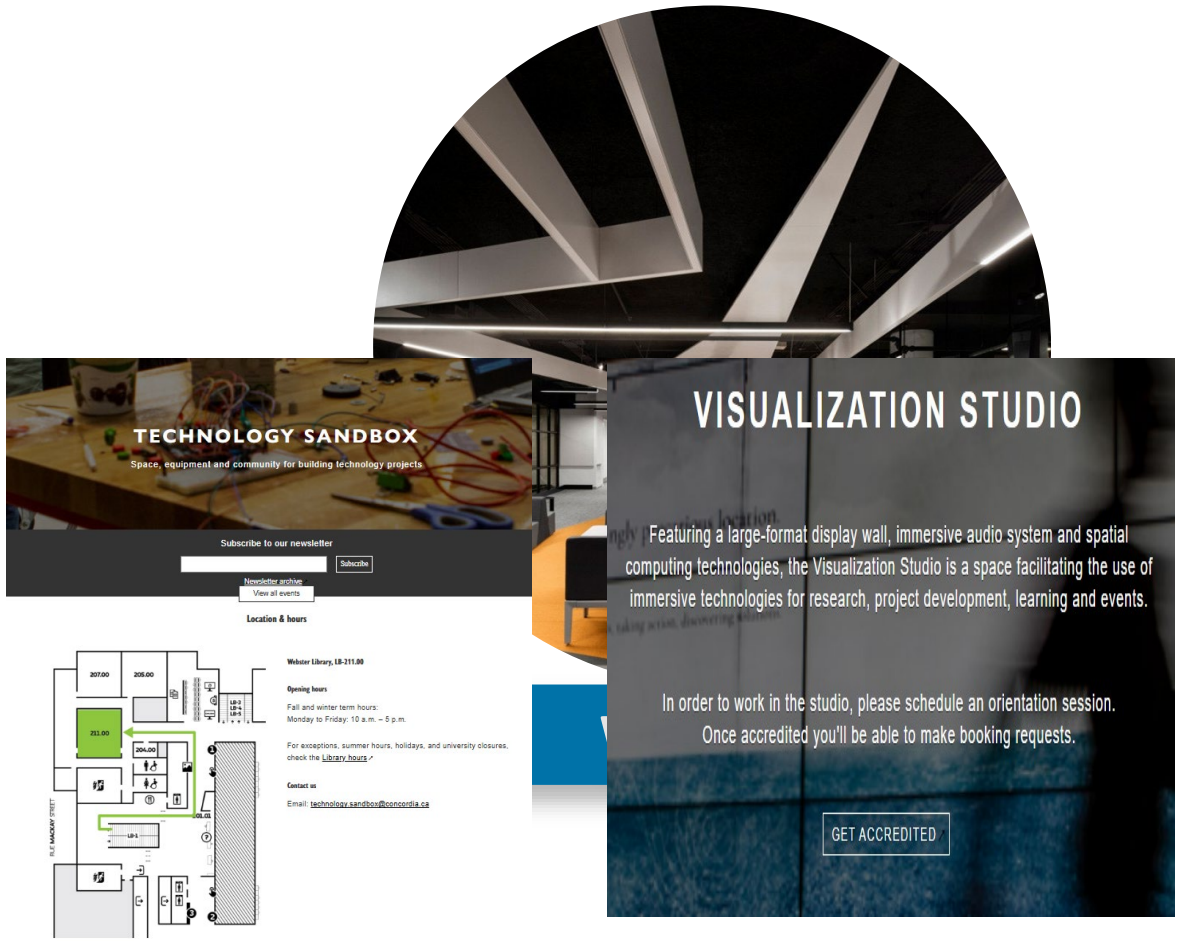
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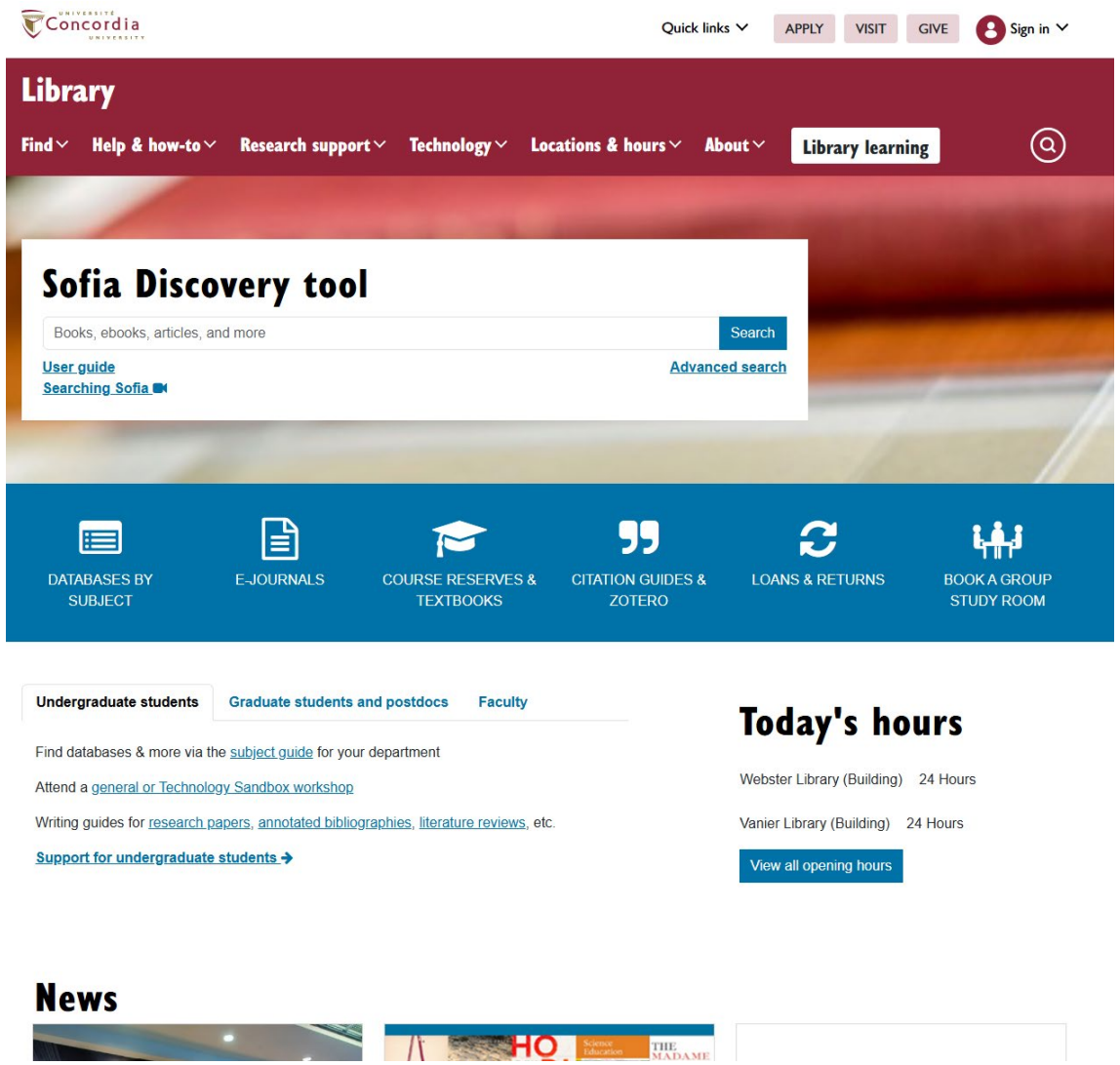


Library spaces and services

Library Spaces

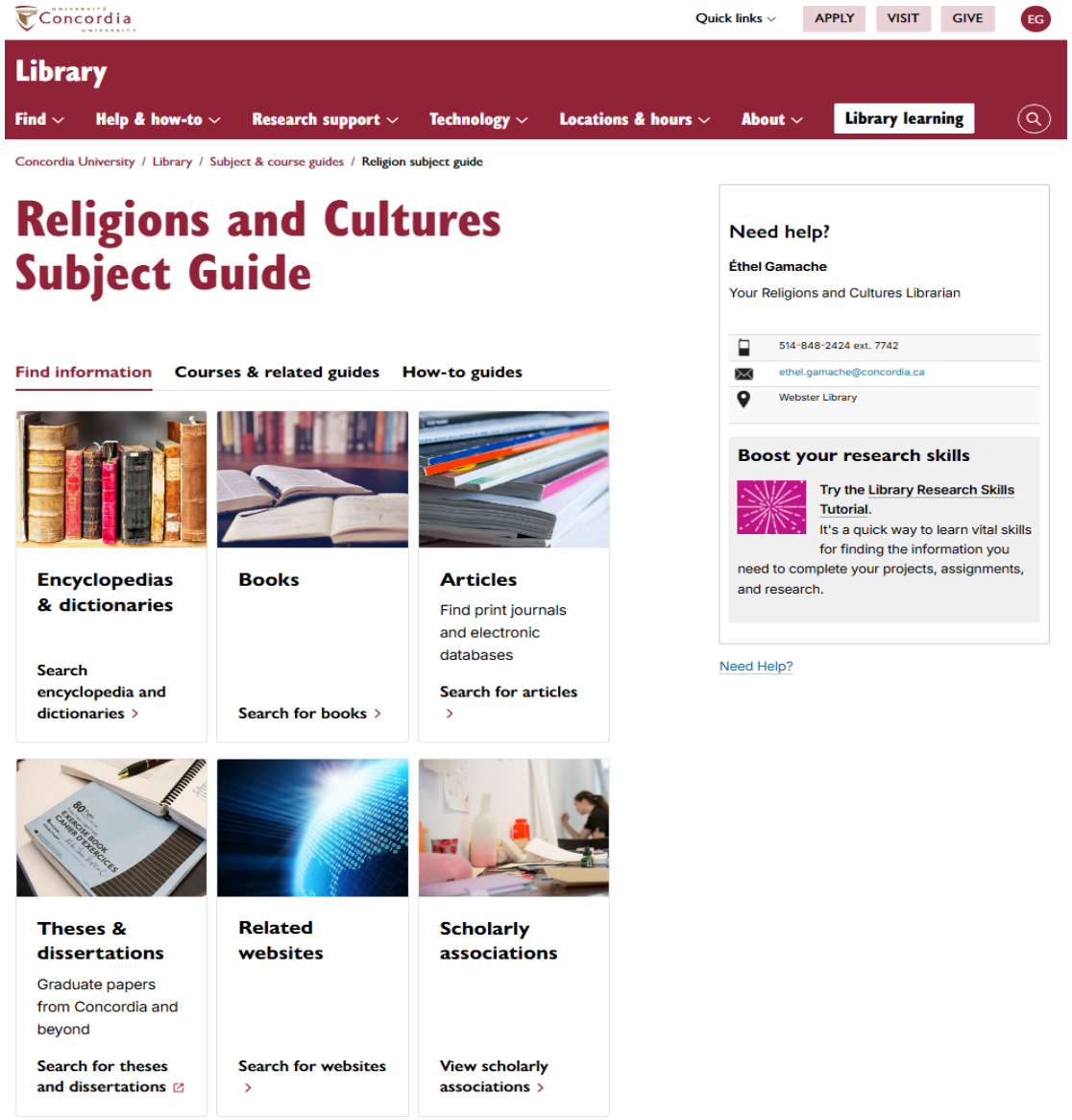






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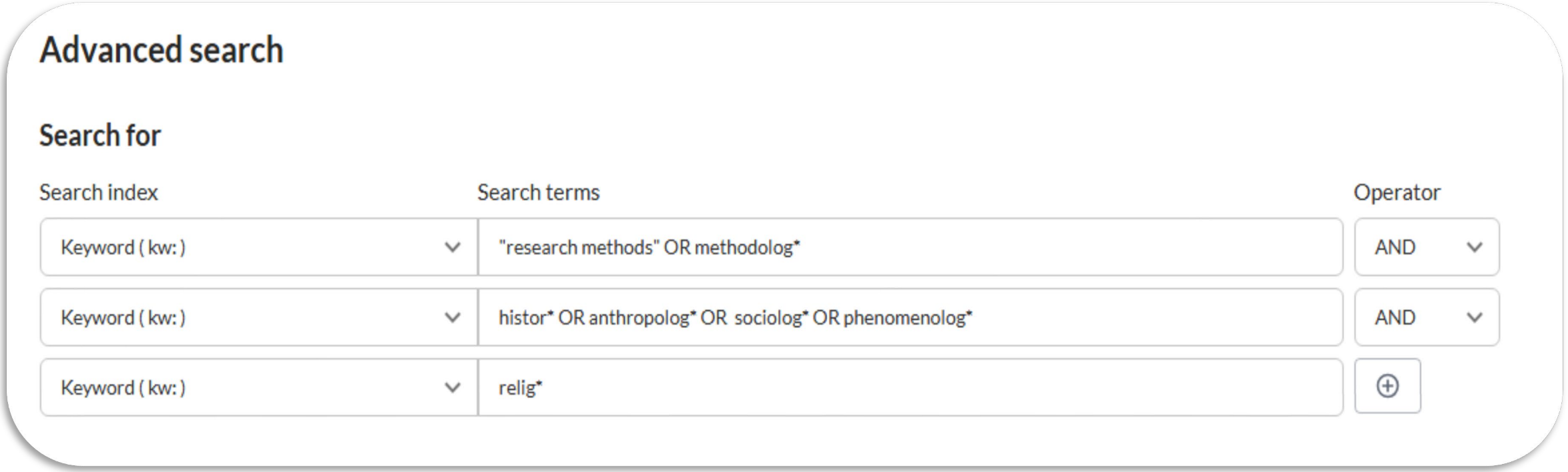
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Searching for information

Sofia

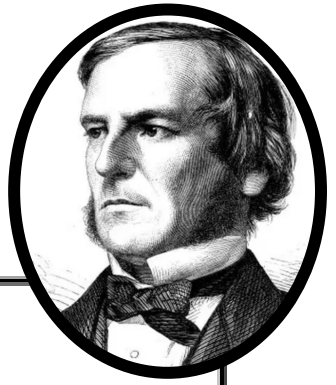
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Boolean search operators

George Boole
1815-1864
Mathematician, logician



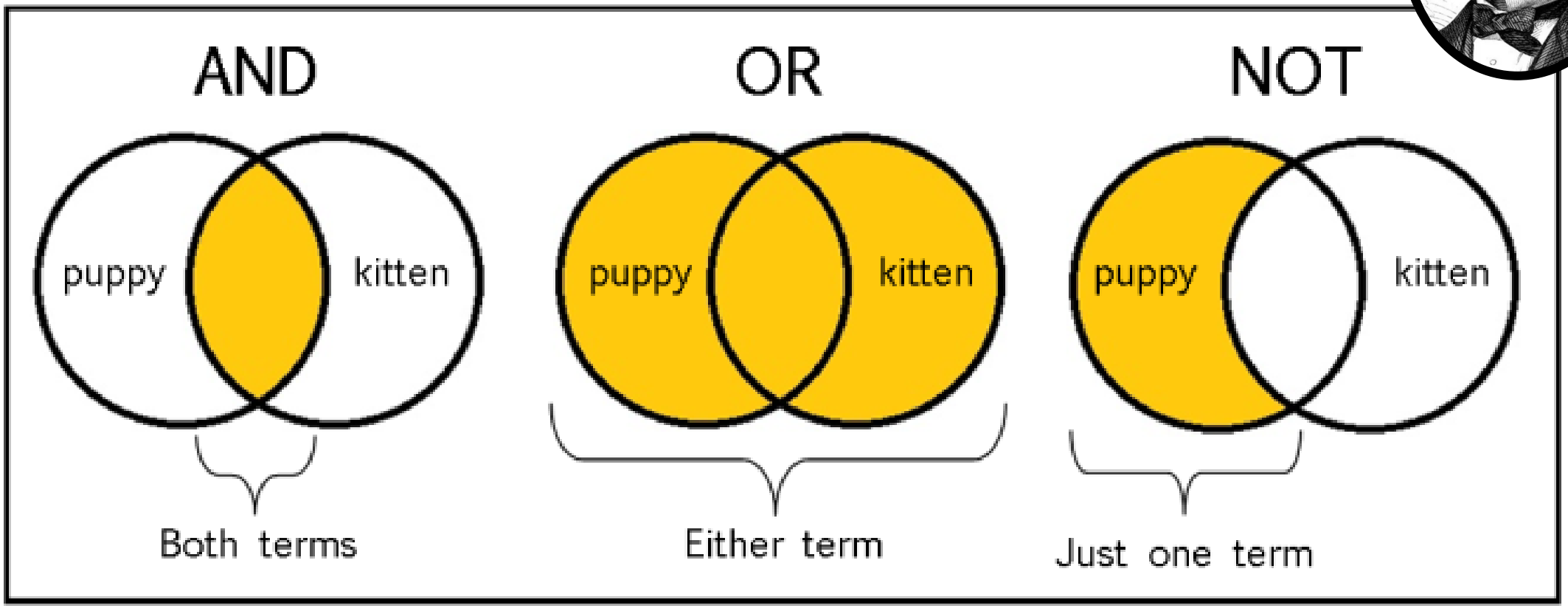
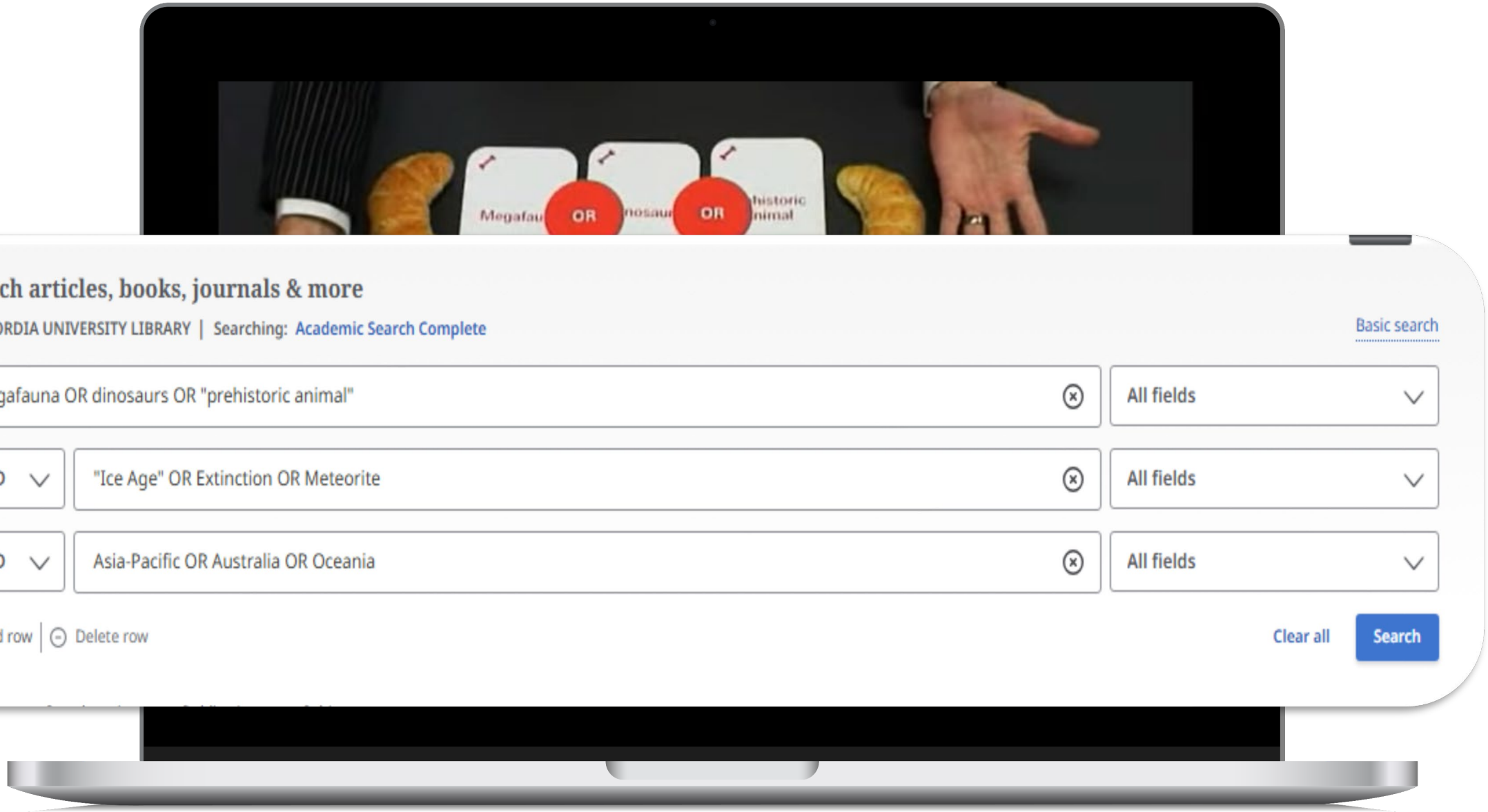


Image source: Library Of Antiquity. « Forgotten Skills: Boolean Searches ». *The Library of Antiquity*, 8 octobre 2016. https://libraryofantiquity.wordpress.com/2016/10/07/forgotten-skills-boolean-searches/.



Extrait du vidéo *Search Smarter, Search Faster* de l'Université de Sydney.

Other Search operators

Exact phrase searching

Quotation marks (“ ”) are used to search for an expression in its exact form (phrase searching). They are useful for expressions containing more than one word. For example, “rite of passage” or “research methods” will find these words written together, without their variants, in that order.

Truncation

The asterisk (*), placed at the end of a word, replaces 0, 1 or more characters. For example, chat* will find chat, chats, chatte, chaton, but also château, Chateaubriand, Châtelaine... It will not, however, find matou, félin, or lynx. Another example: relig*: religion, religions, *religare*, religious, religieux, religieuse.

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kw:("research methods" OR methodolog*) AND ti:(histor* OR anthropolog* OR ...

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Durkheim's Suicide : a century of research and debate

Authors: W.S.F Pickering, Geoffrey Walford, British Centre for Durkheimian Studies.

eBook 2000
London ; New York : Routledge, 2000.

Summary: Annotation Durkeim's book on suicide, first published in 1897, is widely regarded as a classic text,... ... importance of Durkheim's methodology. The wide-ranging chapters cover such issues as the use of statistics, explanation of suicide, anomie and religion and the morality of suicide. It will be of vital interest to any serious scholar of Durkheim's thought and

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Authors: Study Conference on Problems and Methods of the History of Religions: 1959-1969 Rome, 1969., Ugo Bianchi (Editor), Claas Jouco Bleeker 1898- (Editor), Alessandro Bausani 1921-1988, (Editor), Società italiana di storia delle religioni.

Print Book 1972
Leiden, Brill, 1972.

Subjects:
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Celebrating new life - A literature review of research on birth rites in Western societies

Authors: Ida Marie Hoeg, Karin Jarnkvist

Article 2025

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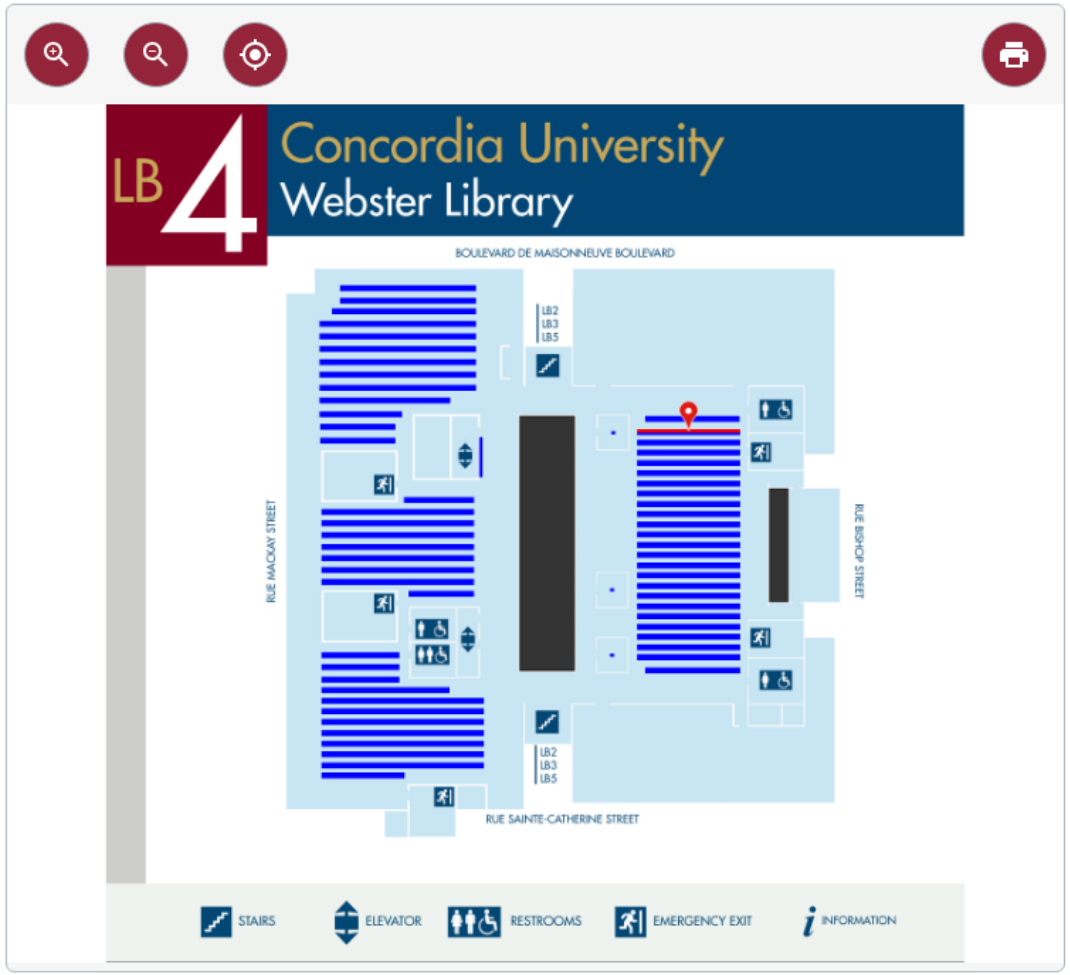
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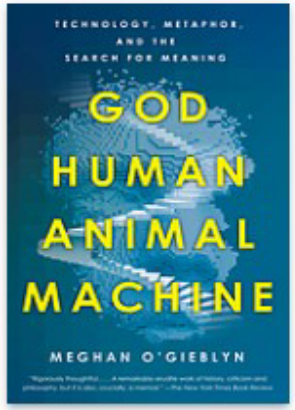
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Authors: Meghan O'Gieblyn 1982- (Author)

Print Book 2021, First edition.
New York : Doubleday, [2021]

Summary: "A meditation on what it might mean to be **human** in an age of ever-accelerating technology"-- Provided by publisher

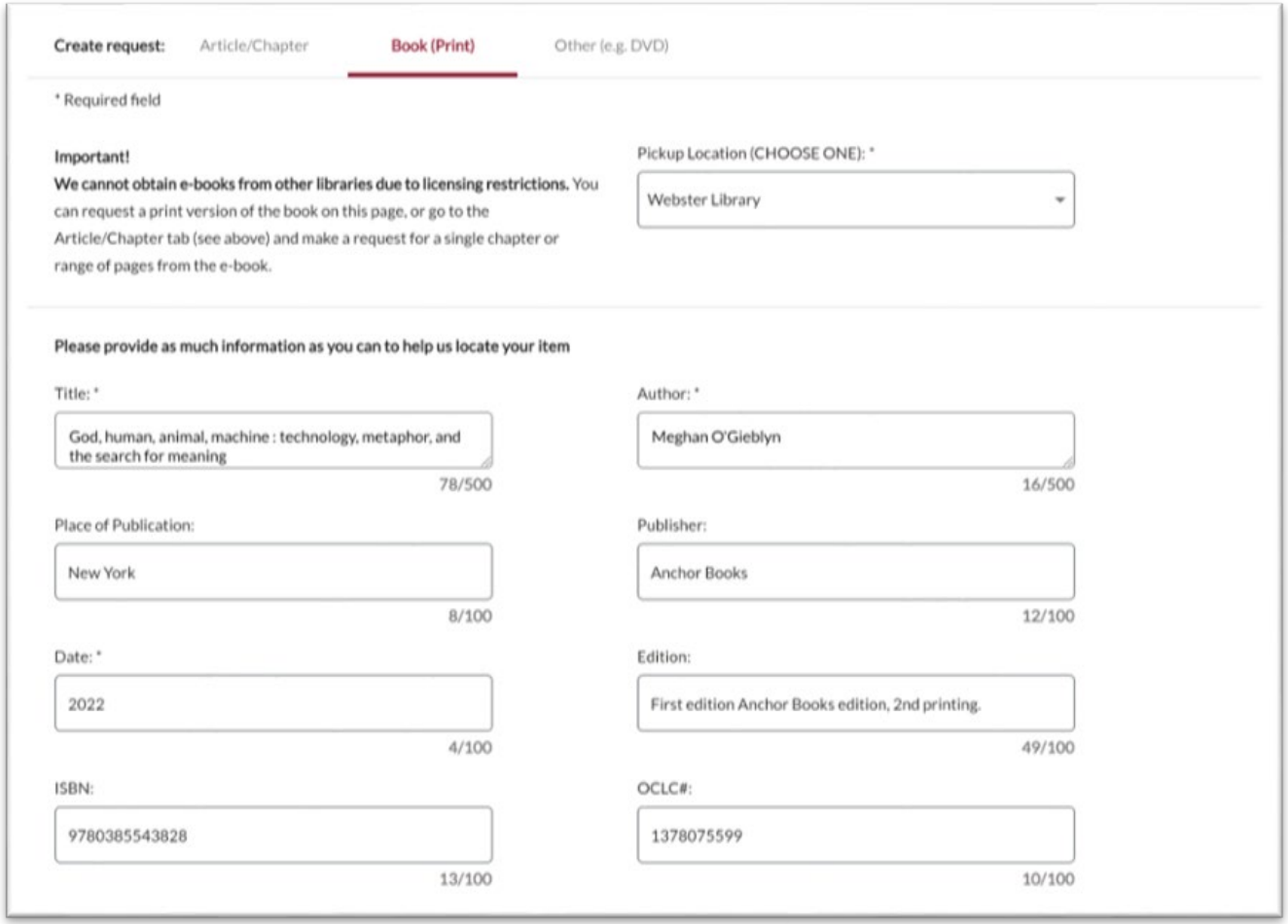
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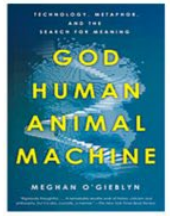
Late Jurassic Climates, Vegetation, and Dinosaur Dis
v112 n6 (2004): 643-653
P McAllister Rees
[unknown] : [unknown], 2004, 2004

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God, human, animal, machine : technology, metaphor, and the search for meaning

First edition Anchor Books edition, 2nd printing.
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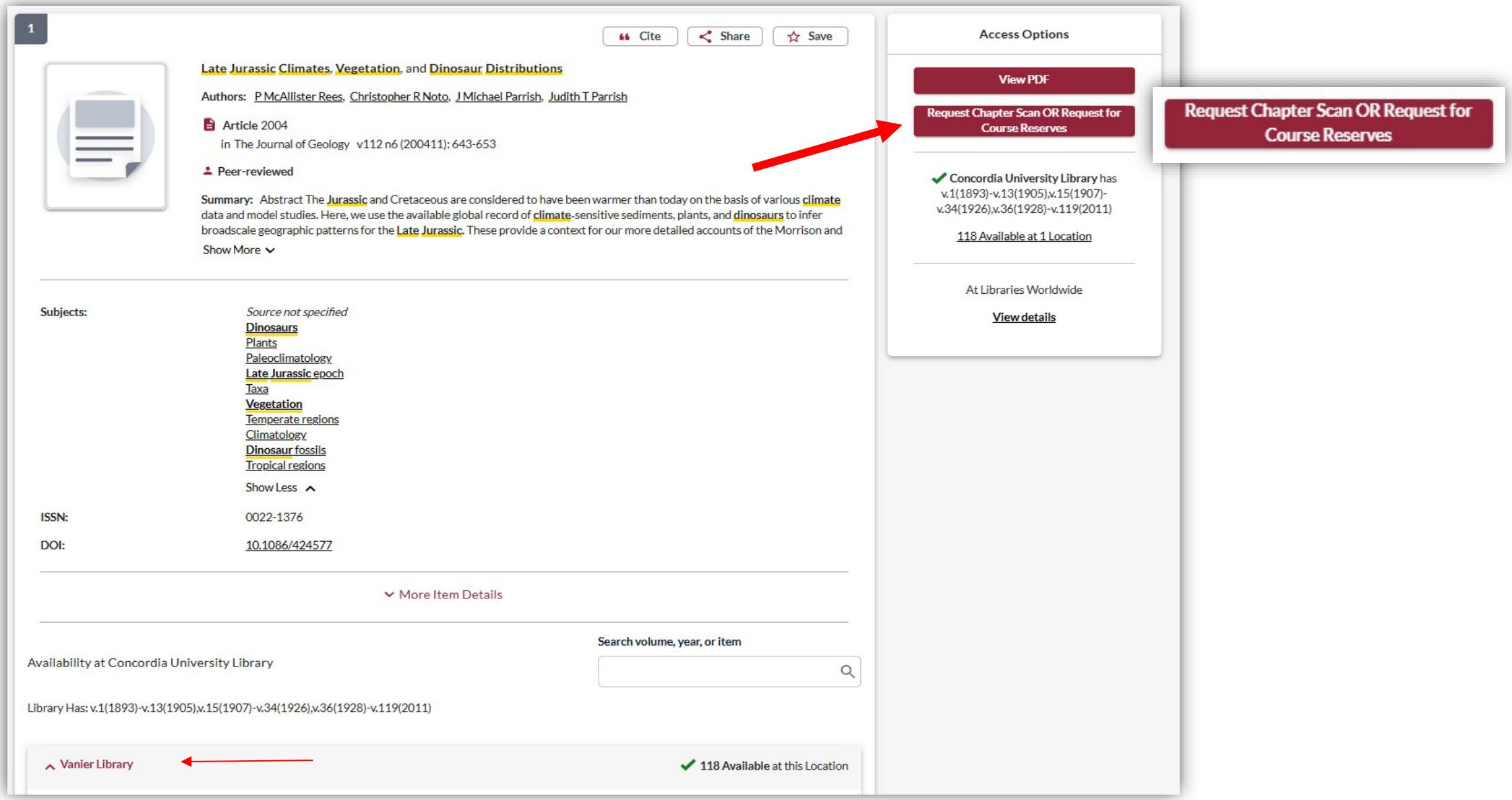
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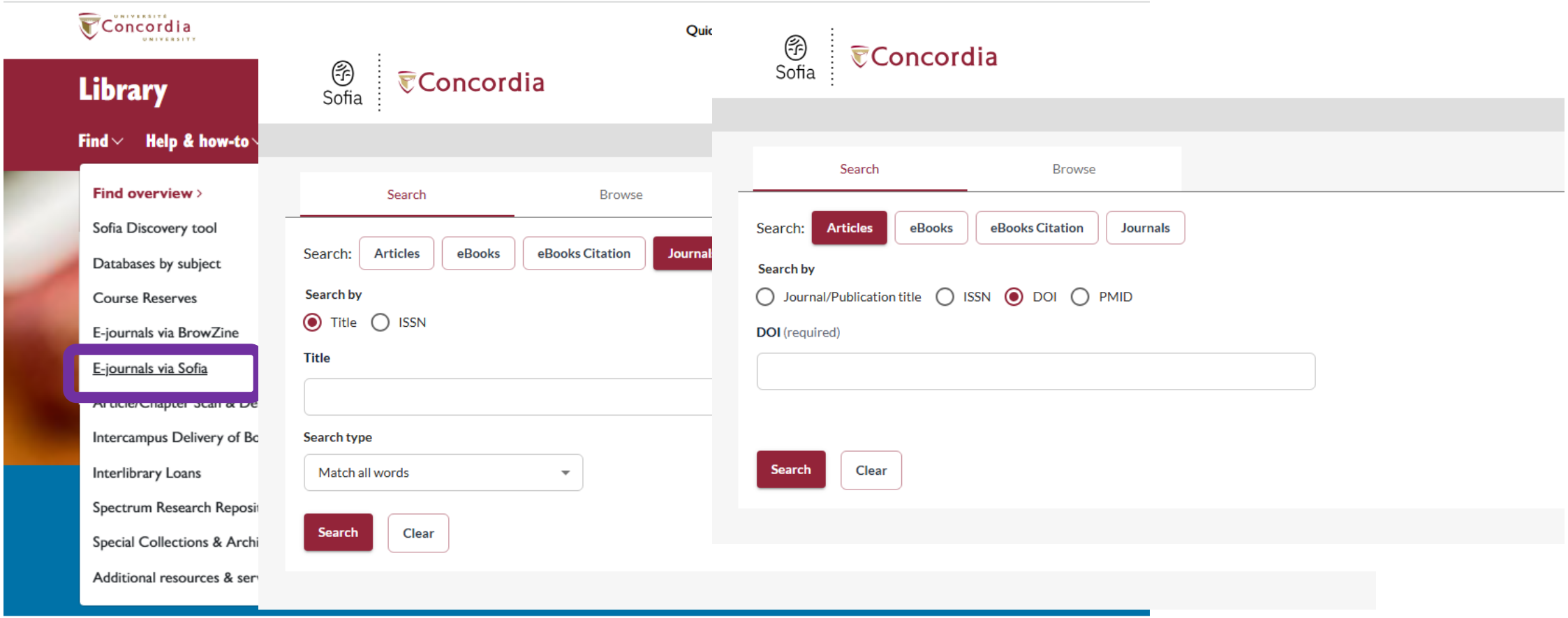
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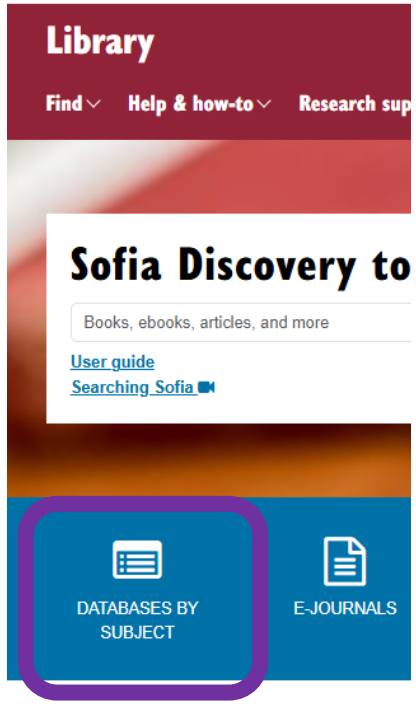


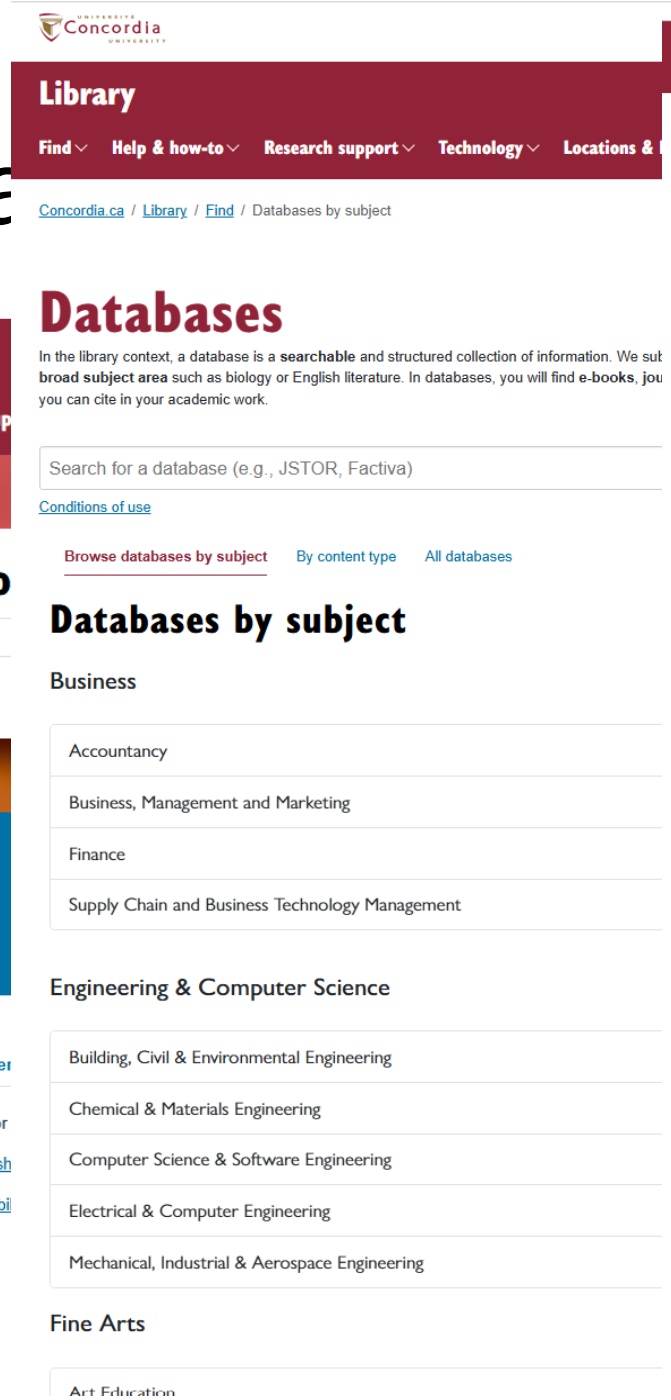
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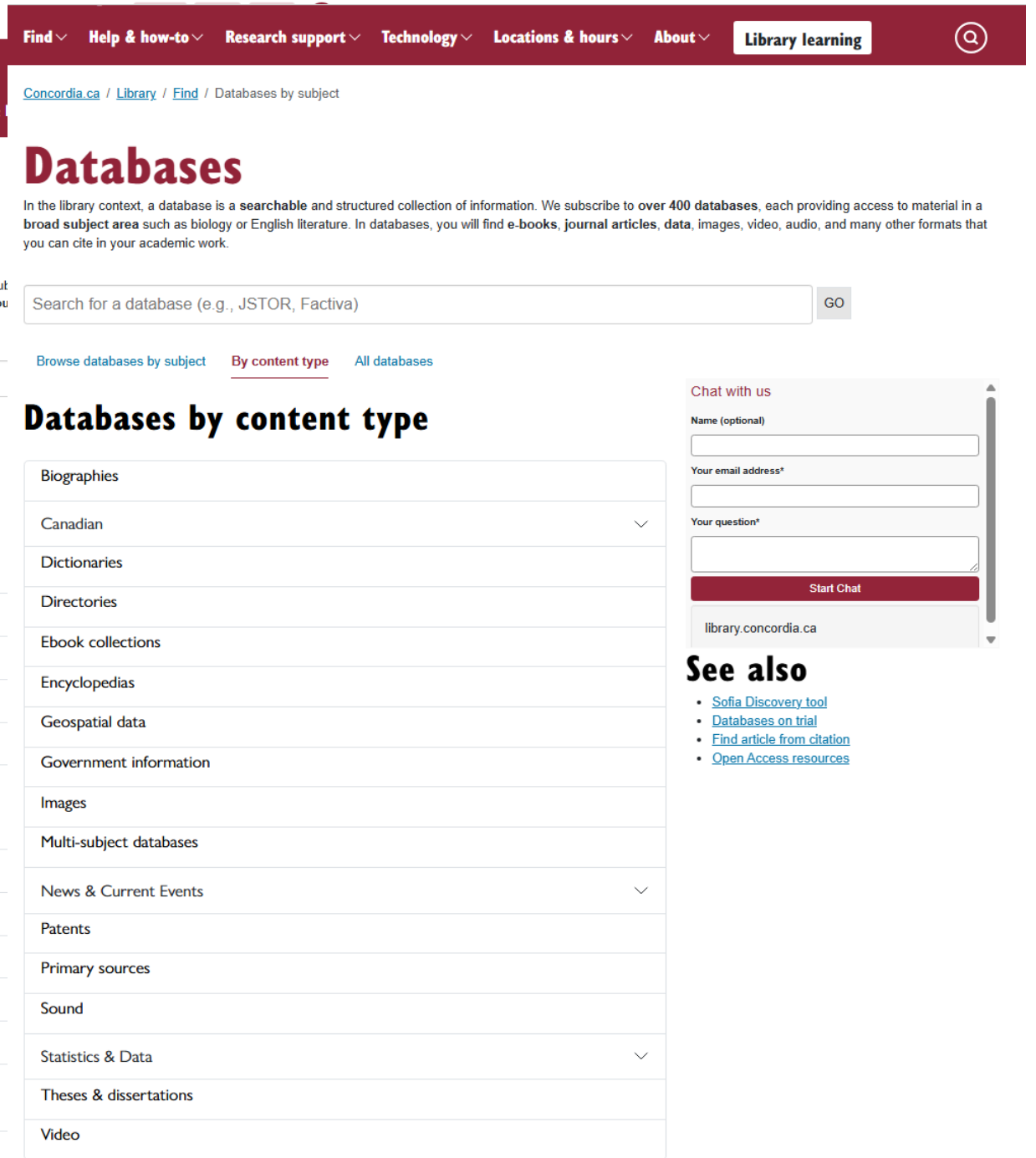
Høeg, Ida Marie, and Karin Jarnkvist. “Celebrating New Life - A Literature Review of Research on Birth Rites in Western Societies.” *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* 45, no. 7-8 (2025): 710–24. https://doi.org/10.1108/IJSSP-09-2024-0449

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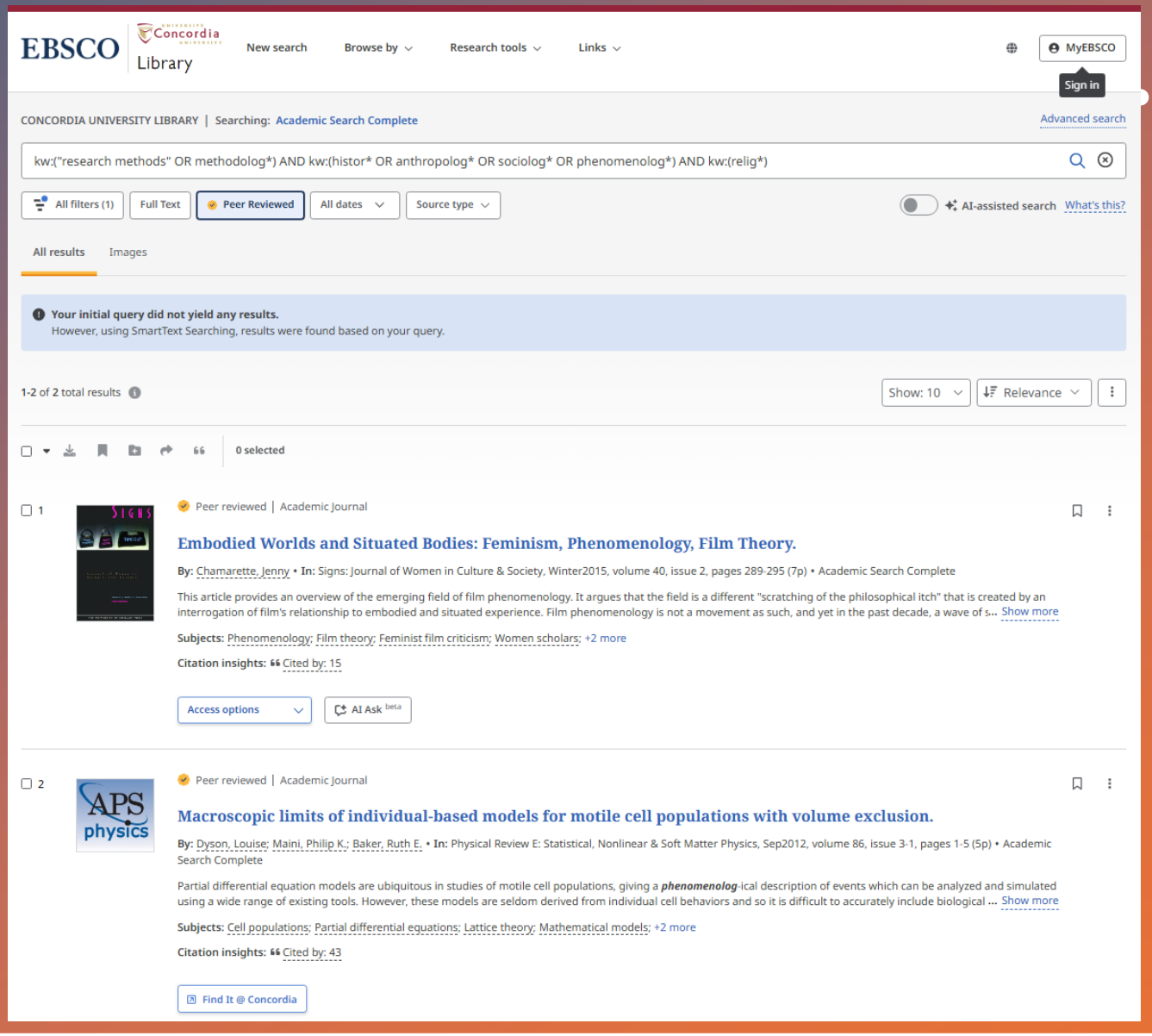

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By: Riding, Charles Bruce • In: Christian Perspectives on Science and Technology, 2022, volume 1, pages 72-95 (24p) • Atla Religion Database with AtlaSerials

Subjects: Bible. Deuteronomy 13-28; ***Faith***; ***Science -- Methodology***

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Paul Tillich, Rita Felski, and the Impossible Necessity of Believing in Science

By: Gibson, Ian • In: Theology and Science, Apr 2024, volume 22, issue 2, pages 330-342 (13p) • Atla Religion Database with AtlaSerials

Subjects: Tillich, Paul , 1886-1965; Felski, Rita , 1956-; Science -- Philosophy; Science -- Methodology; +3 more

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INVESTIGATING THE PHENOMENOLOGICAL SCIENTIFIC METHODOLOGY IN THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF *RELIGION*: AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

By: Shafeen, Mohamed Ashath Mohamed; Shehu, Fatmir (Fatmir Mehdi) • In: Afkär, 2025, volume 27, issue 1, pages 49-90 (42p) • Atla Religion Database with AtlaSerials

Subjects: Phenomenology; ***Science -- Methodology***; ***Religions*** -- Comparative studies; Philosophy, Islamic

G

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON METHODOLOGY IN THE STUDY OF RELIGION

ARMIN W. GEERTZ

This paper explores the methodological problems raised by what broadly can be called postmodern challenges to the study of religion. In dealing with the religions of living cultures and especially with cultures that have been subject to colonialism, students of religion are faced with the difficult issues of orientalism, the construction of the exotic, the representation or misrepresentation of other cultures, the politics of science, and feminist criticism. This challenge also carries consequences for those who study historical and prehistorical religions, since it cuts deeply into the very fabric of the identity of the study of religion. The situation, therefore, has far-reaching consequences for its methodology.

I have through the years attempted to promote discussions on the above-mentioned challenges in order to encourage more refined reflection and greater sensitivity, but not to succumb to the self-conscious contemplative passivity noted by Georg Lukács.[1] I suggest that we take Edward Said's challenge up and "take the Other seriously".[2]

What I hope to accomplish with this symposium is to try to catalogue the major issues and find possible avenues that discussions

[1] Armin W. Geertz, "The Study of Indigenous Religions in the History of Religions", in *Studies on Religions in the context of Social Sciences*, edited by W. Tyloch, Warsaw: Polish Society for the Science of Religions 1990, 31-43; "Hopi Hermeneutics: Ritual Person among the Hopi Indians of Arizona", in *Concepts of Person in Religion and Thought*, edited by H. G. Kippenberg, Y. B. Kuiper & A. F. Sanders, Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter 1990, 309-335; "Native American Art and the Problem of the Other: An Introduction to the Issues", *European Review of Native American Studies* 5, 1991, 1-4; *The Invention of Prophecy: Continuity and Meaning in Hopi Indian Religion*, Knebel: Brunbakke Publications 1992, 2nd ed. Los Angeles: University of California Press 1994; "On Reciprocity and Mutual Reflection in the Study of Native American Religions", *Religion* 24, 1994, 1-7; "Critical Reflections on the Postmodern Study of Religion", *Religion* 24, 1994, 16-22; and "Can We Move Beyond Primitivism? On Recovering the Indigenes of Indigenous Religions in the Academic Study of Religion", in *Beyond "Primitivism": Indigenous Religious Traditions and Modernity*, edited by Jacob Olupona, in press.

[2] Edward Said, "Representing the Colonized: Anthropology's Interlocutors", *Critical Inquiry* 15 (2), 1989, 205-225, p.223.

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Method & Theory in the Study of Religion 12, 49-73

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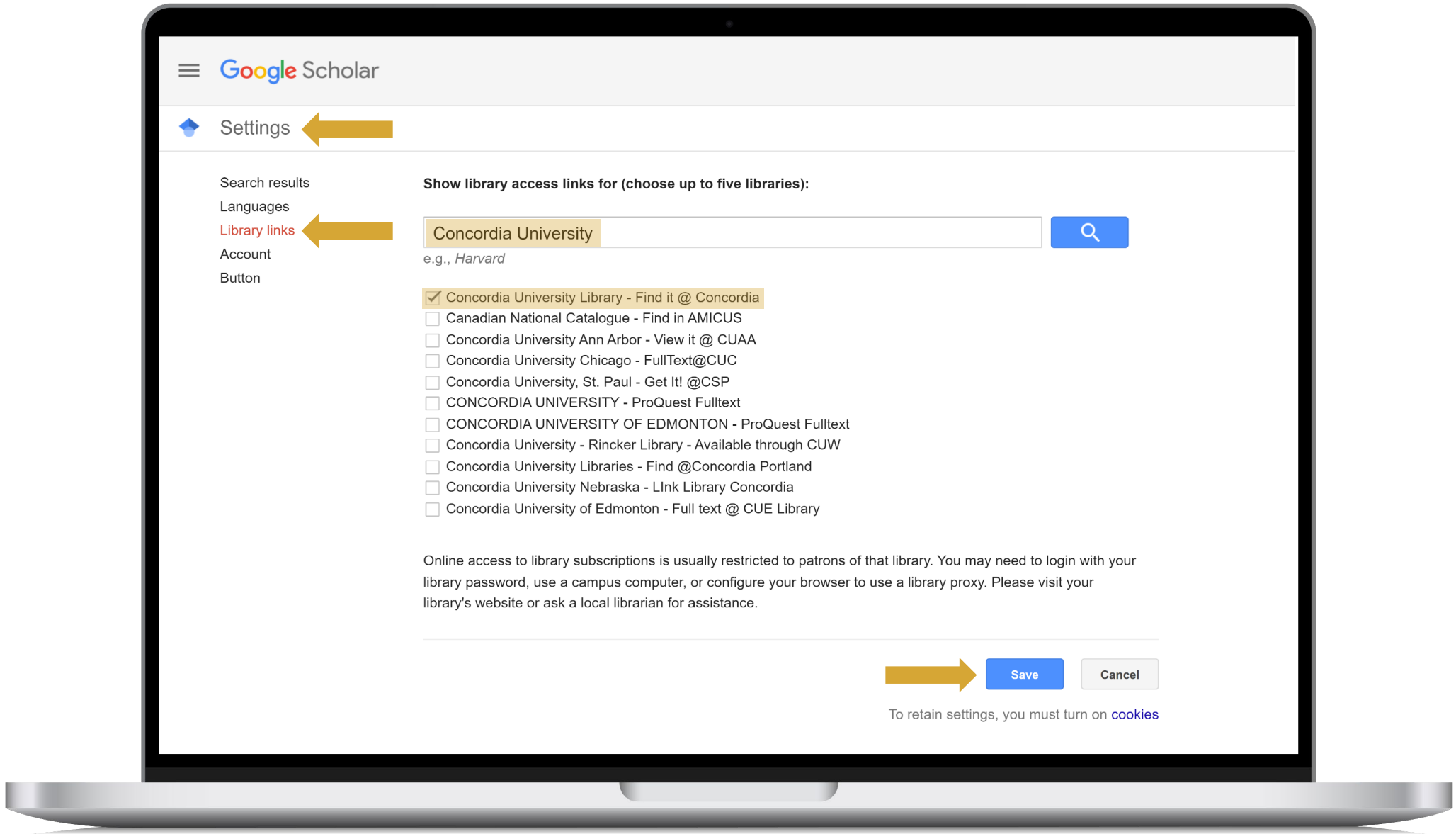
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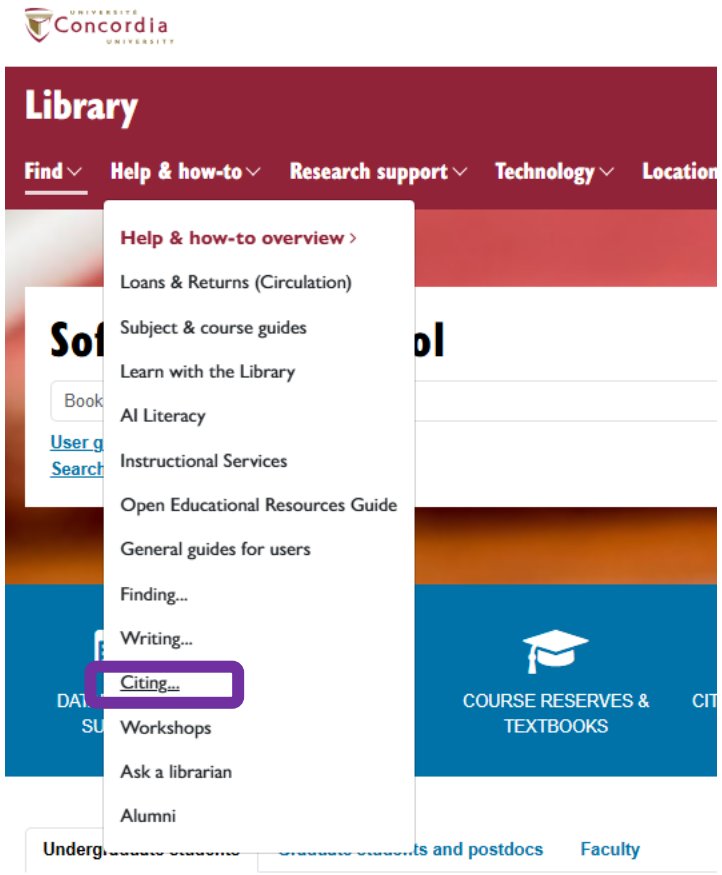
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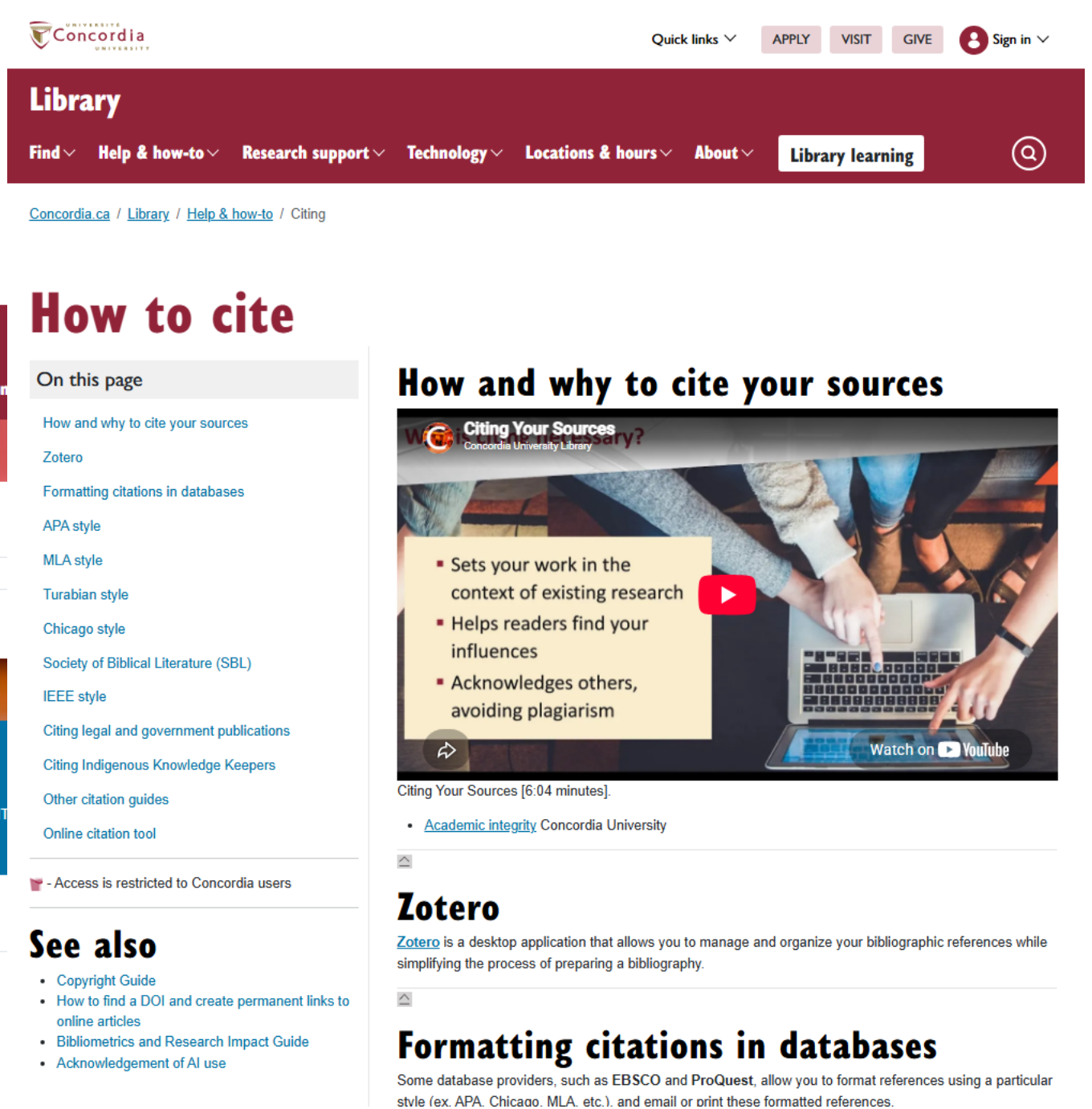
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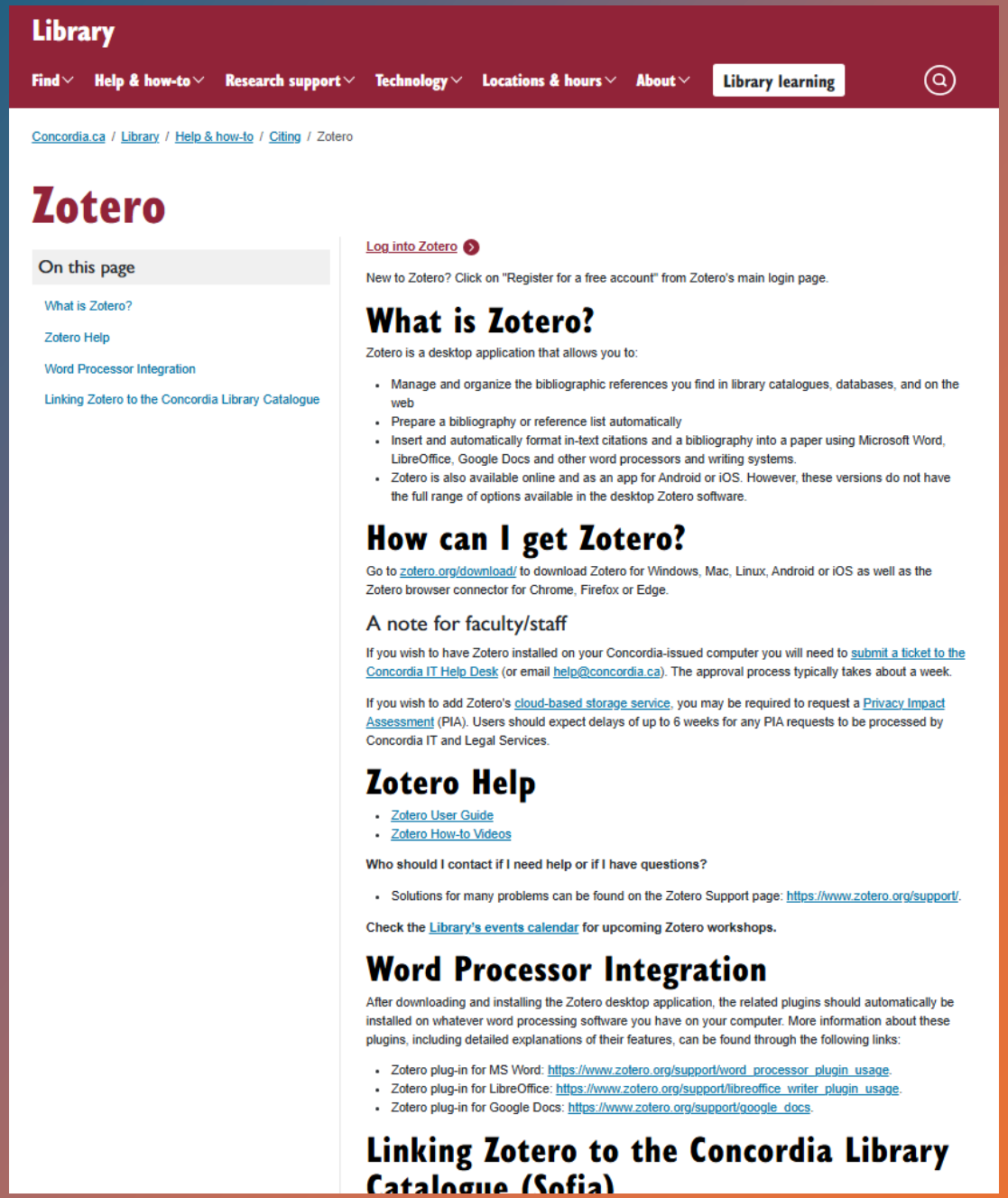
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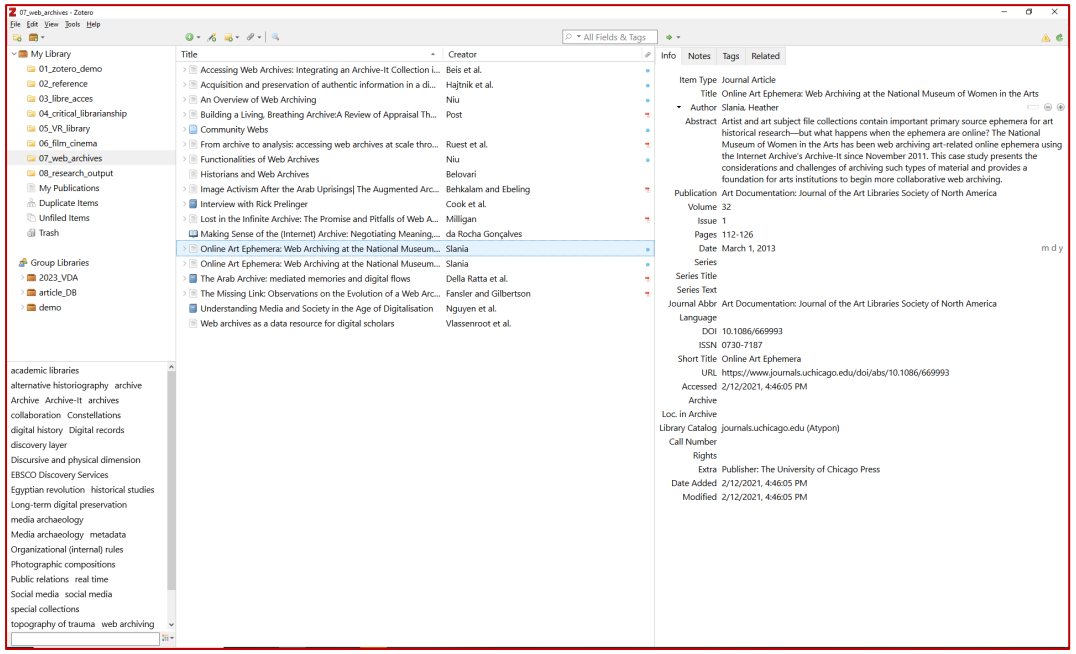
This is an overview; the Library offers Zotero workshops, the complete workshop lasts 90 minutes.



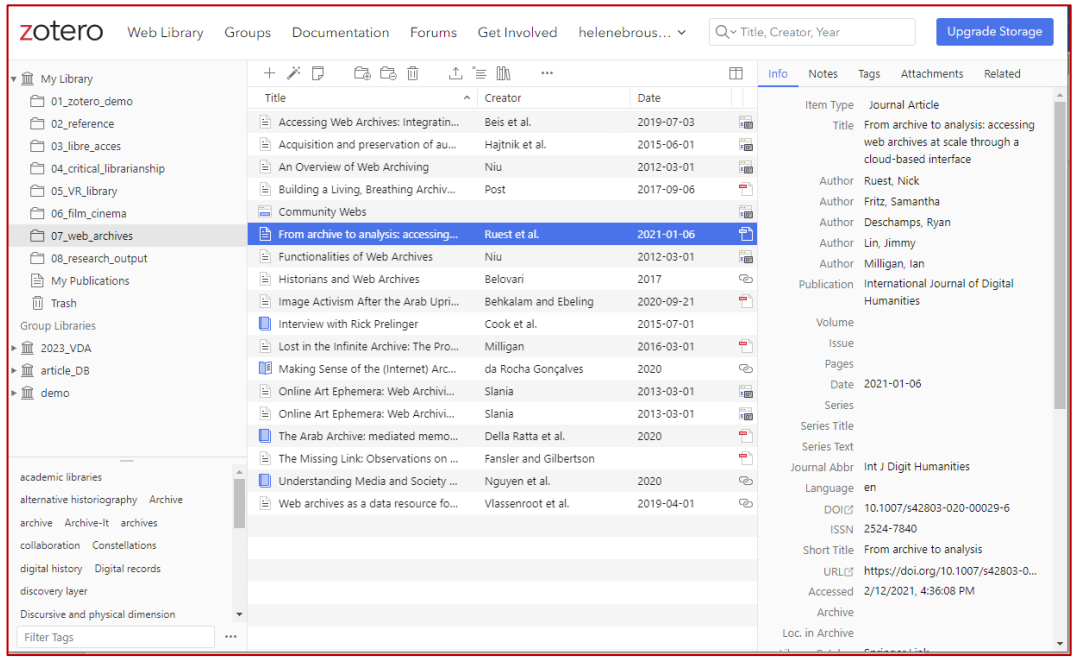
https://library.concordia.ca/help/citing/zotero/index.php

How do I access Zotero?

Desktop application

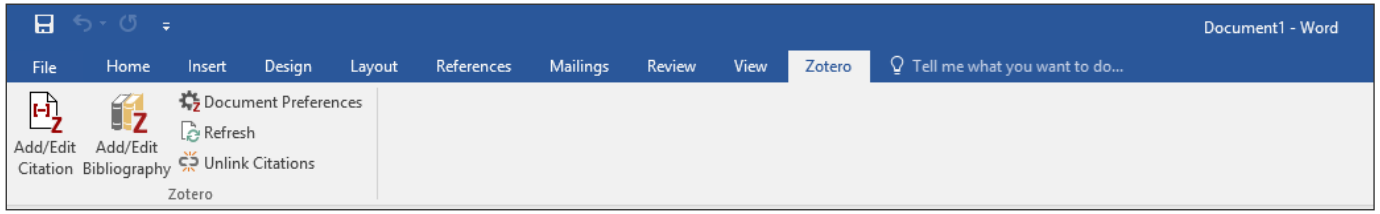


Web browser version



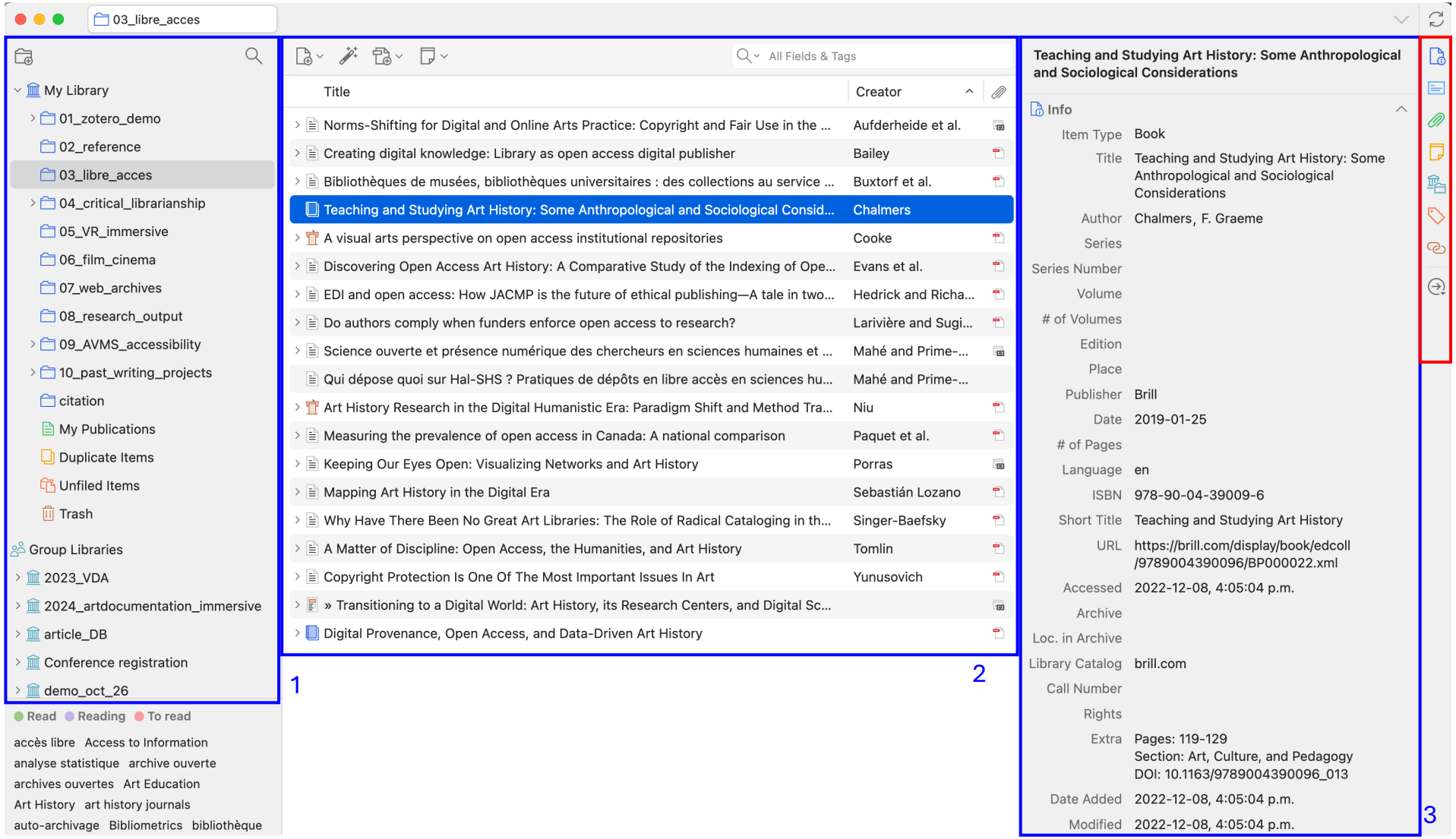


Web browser extension

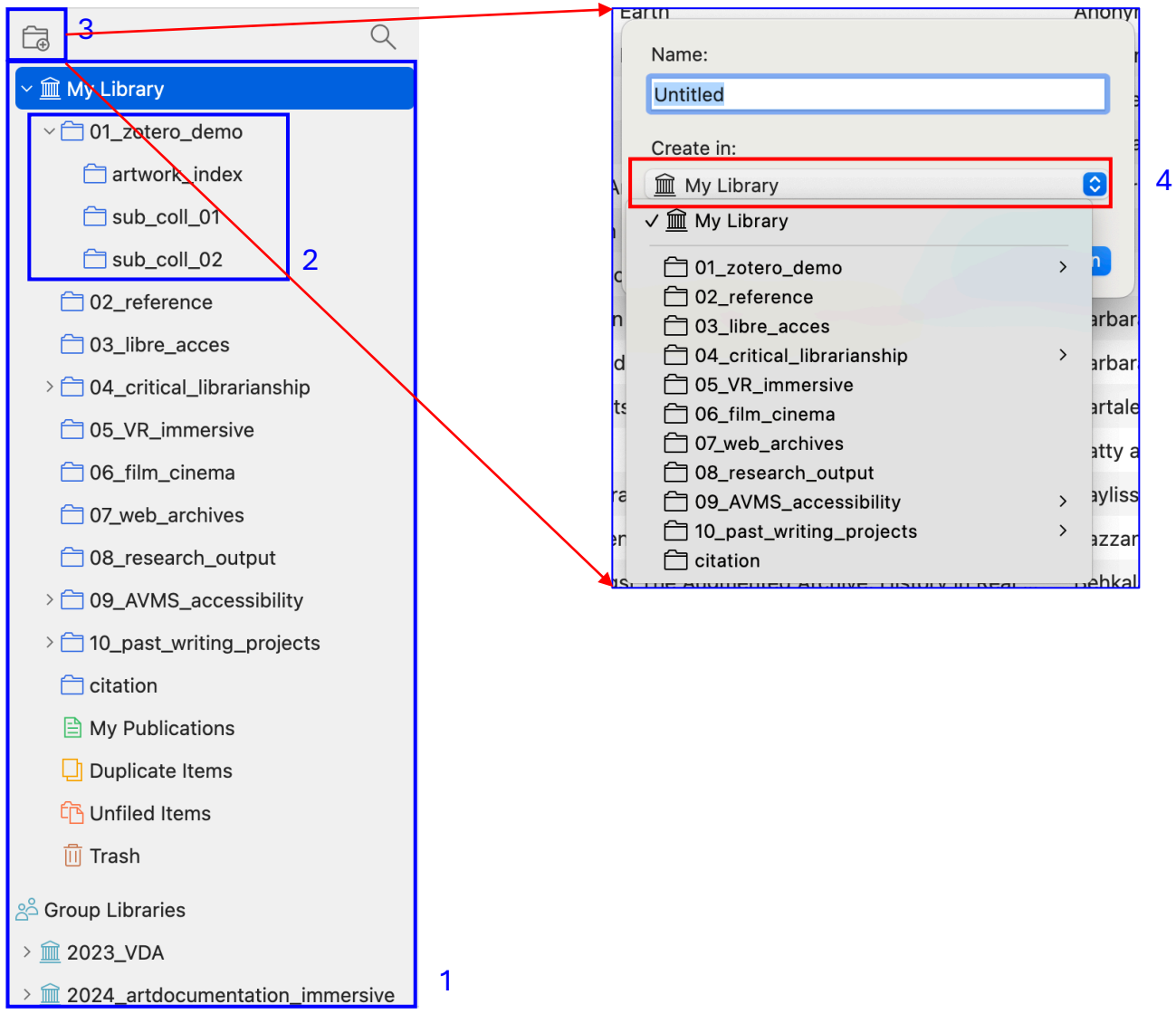


Add-on for writing software

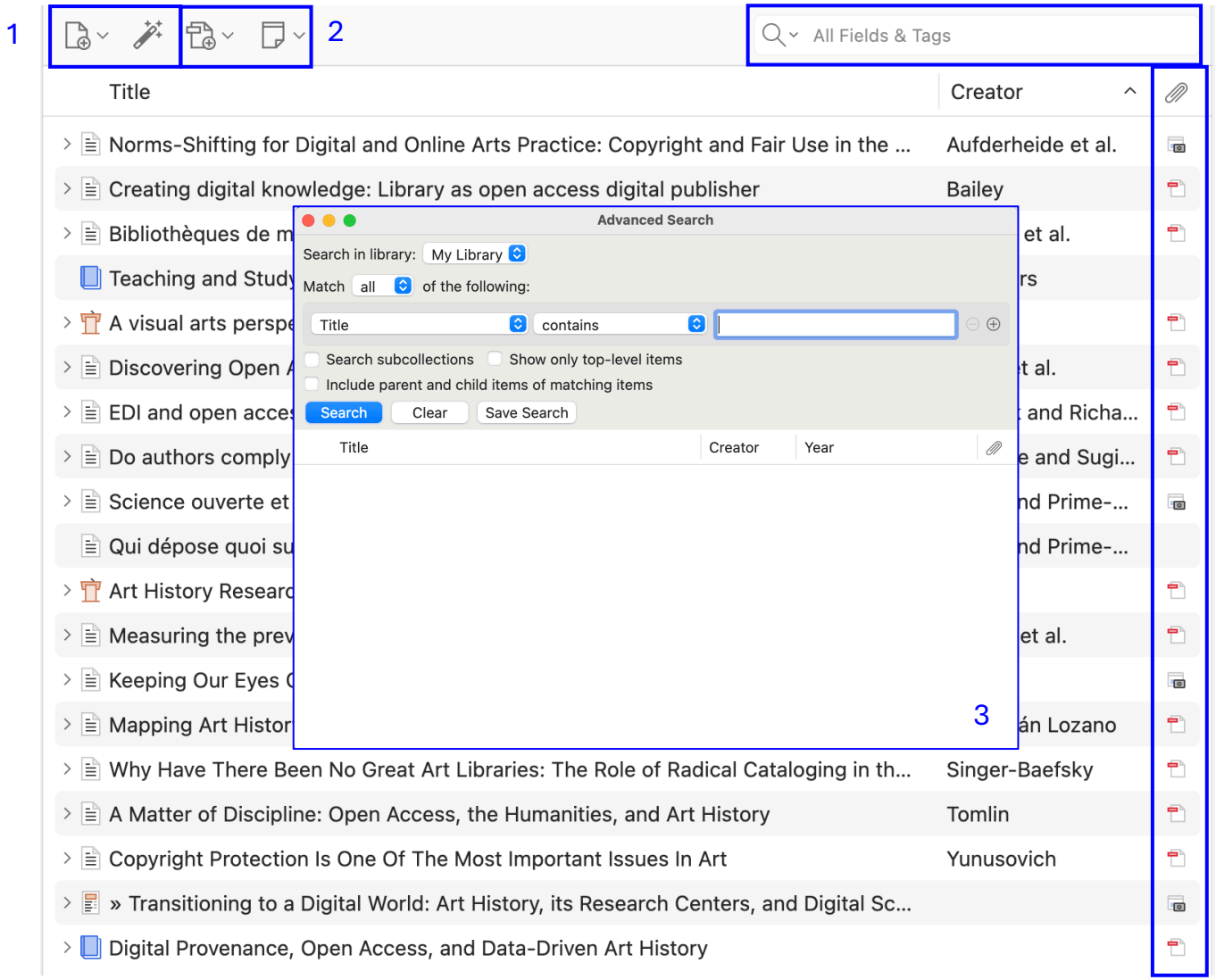
Introduction to Zotero for desktop



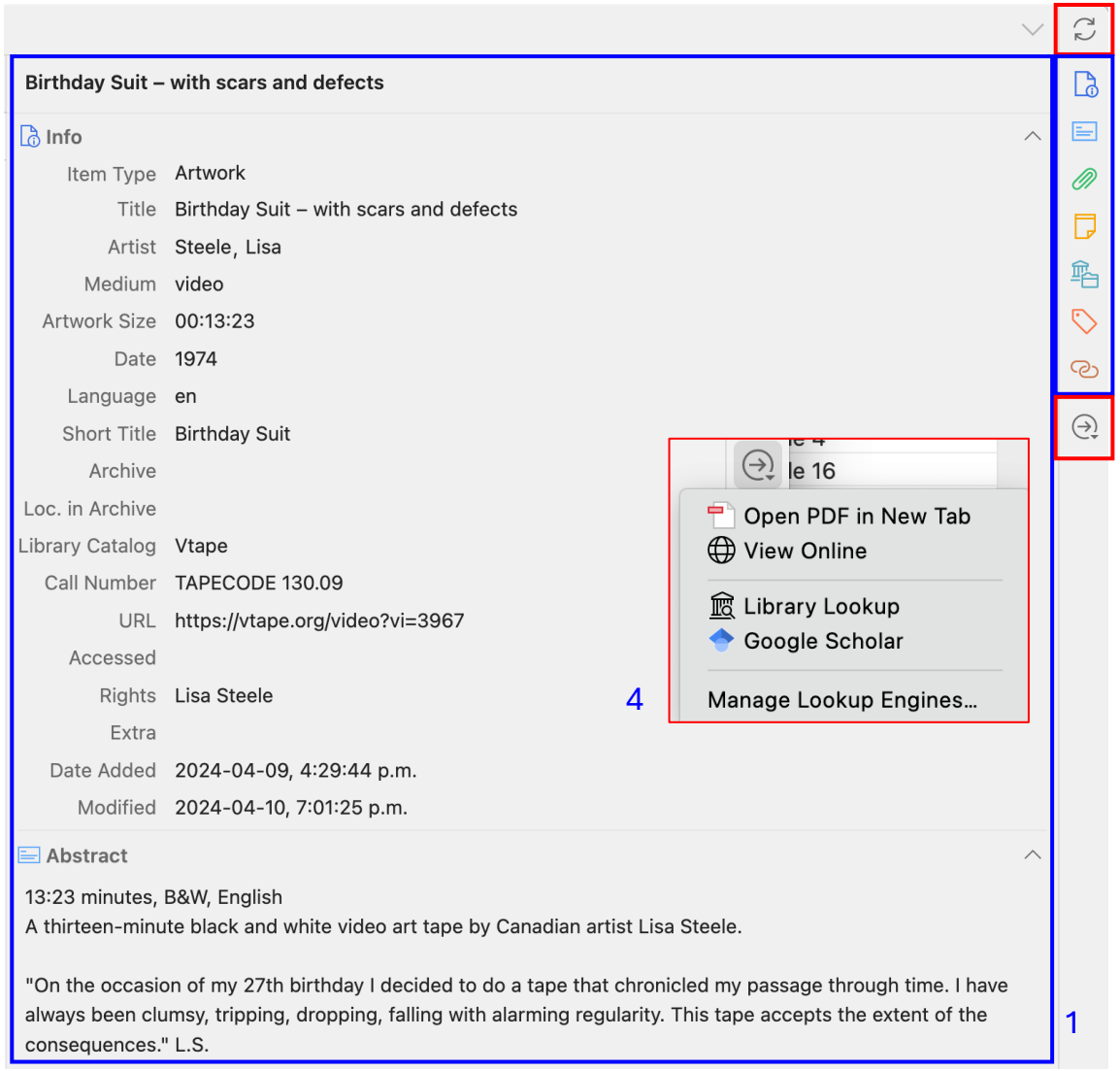
Introduction to Zotero for desktop

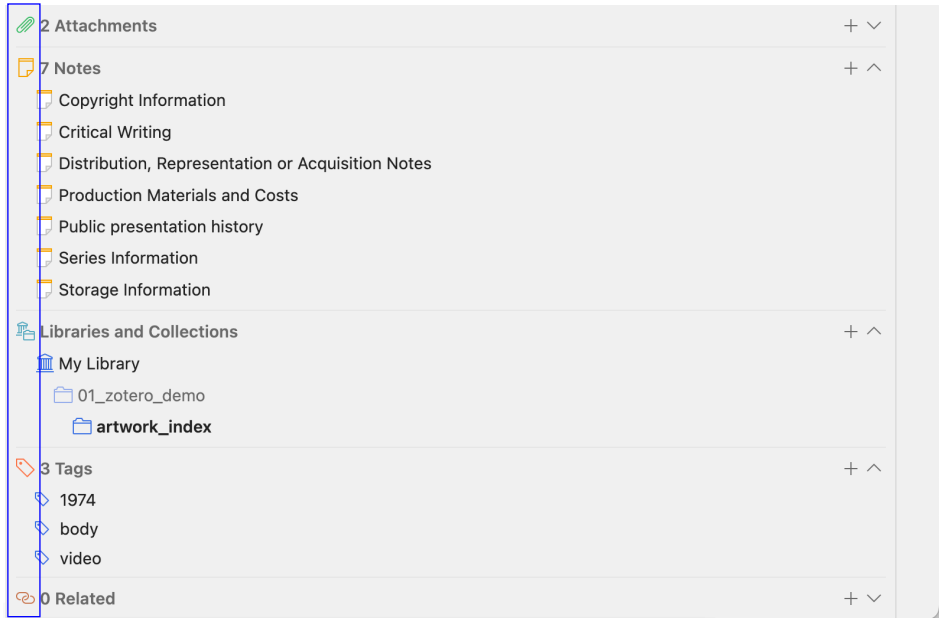


Introduction to Zotero for desktop

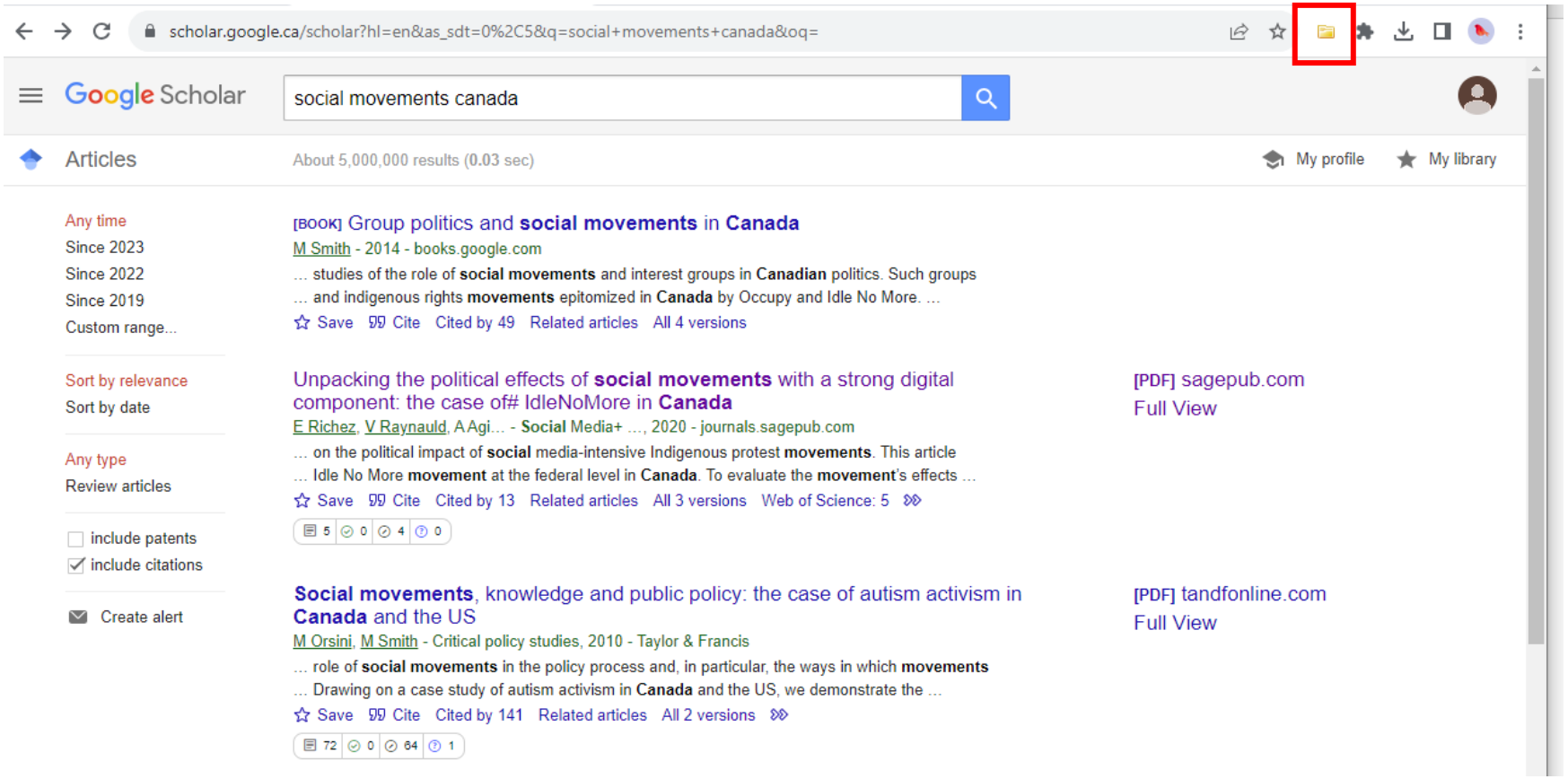


Introduction to Zotero for desktop

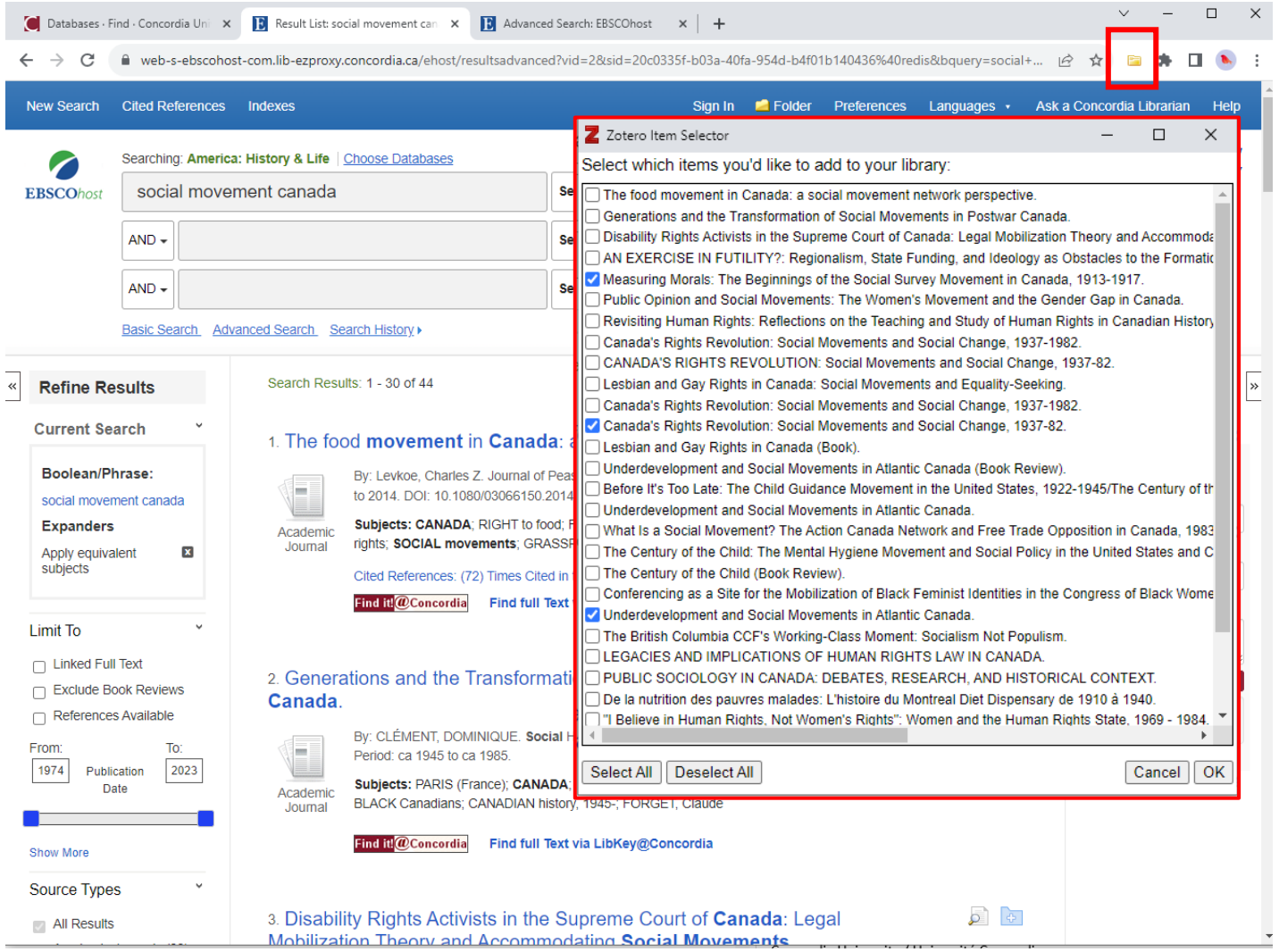




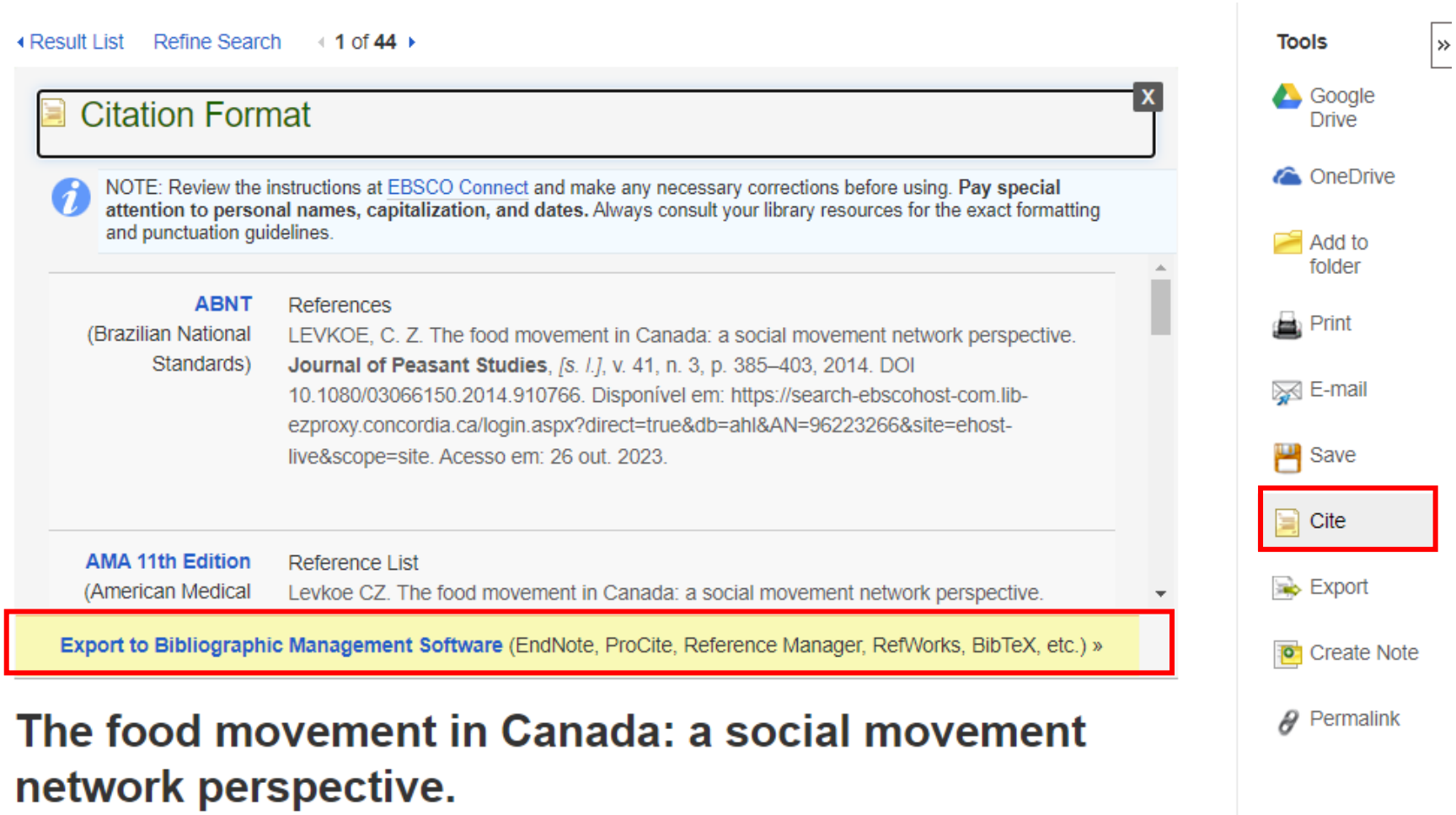
Building your personal Database of References: Importing from Google Scholar



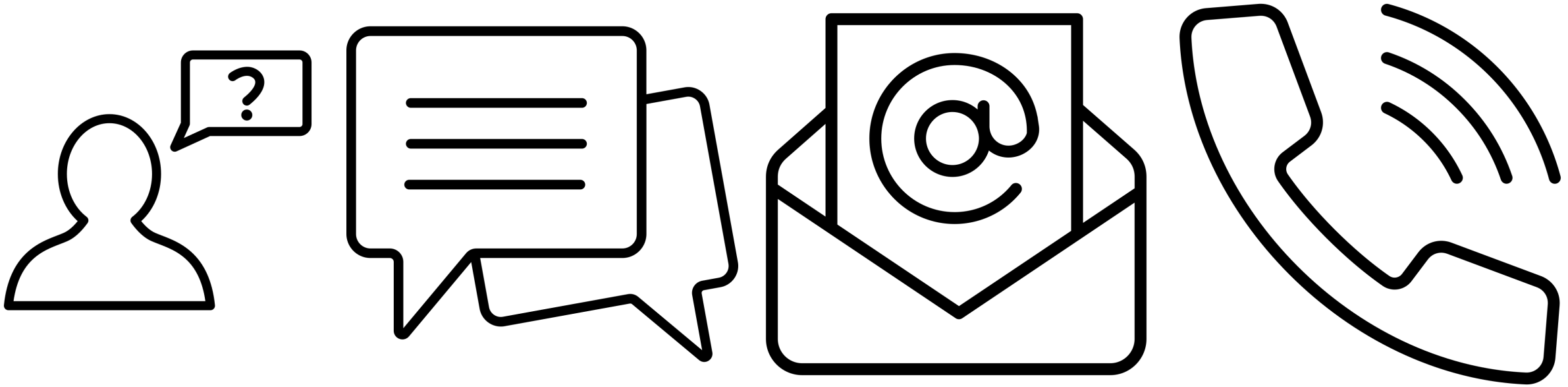
Building your personal Database of References: Saving a list of references



Building your personal Database of References: citation button



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Ask Us desk, chat, email or phone

Thank you for your participation!

Questions?

Éthel Gamache

ethel.gamache@concordia.ca

