

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



FACULTY OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES BASIC E-RESOURCES USER GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Library provides access to high-quality information resources that support the teaching, learning, research, and clinical practice needs of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences. Our collection includes essential electronic resources such as medical e-journals, clinical e-books, evidence-based databases, and specialised online tools to advance healthcare education and innovation. These digital resources complement the extensive selection of hard copy medical books, journals, and reference materials, ensuring that students, researchers, and practitioners have the latest knowledge at their fingertips.

The Online Catalogue (OPAC-Online Public Access Catalogue)

The Online Catalogue, also called the Online Public Access Catalogue is your key to all materials in the library. It shows you the available resources, e.g., printed books, periodicals, e-books, and e-journals and their locations. The OPAC is always online, meaning you communicate with a live computer when you search. It uses a web browser for all its functions. The library has dedicated computers that are used only for OPAC purposes. However, you can access the OPAC on any computer, laptop, or hand-held device with internet access on and off campus.

The OPAC provides the following information:

- Author(s) name
- Title of the document
- Subjects covered in the document
- The location of the document using the **call number** (for retrieval purposes)
- Publisher, place of publication, and date of publication
- The extent of the document, such as pagination, book size, duration of a film, etc
- The status of the document, i.e. whether it is available or is on loan

You can also use the Online Public Access Catalogue to view your account. To view your account details, enter your e-learning credentials, i.e. username and password to access your account.

In your account, you can:

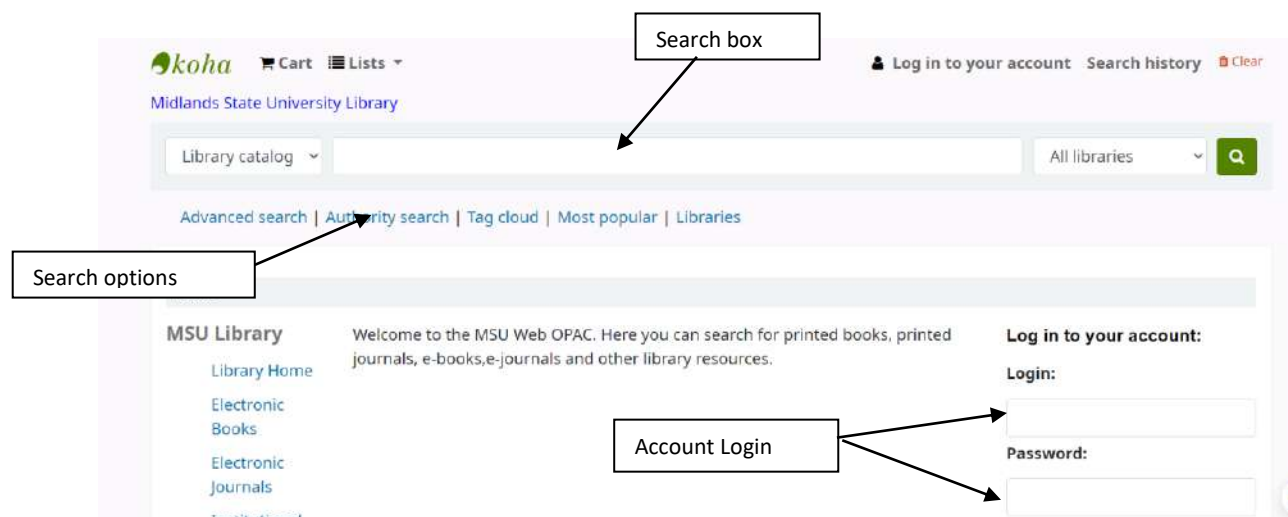
- View your current transactions
- Your transaction history

- Create custom lists where you can save your results. The results are stored for thirty days in the account lists.

SEARCHING FOR PRINTED BOOKS USING THE ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOGUE (OPAC)

Follow these steps to access and search the OPAC:

1. Open your browser and go to www.msu.ac.zw to open the main MSU website
2. On the MSU website, Click on the “Libraries” link at the top of the page
3. Once you are on the Libraries web page, click on the “Electronic Resources.” link and select “Catalogue”.



OPAC search interface

4. In the above search form, search for a printed book, e.g. “Biochemistry.”
5. Click the “Search” button; the OPAC will search for books matching your search terms.
6. Results will be displayed in the format shown on the next page.

The screenshot shows a search results page for 'Biochemistry'. On the left, there is a sidebar with 'Topics' including 'Biochemistry', 'Biochemical phenomena...', 'Biotechnology', 'Business', and 'Chemistry', with a 'Show more' link. The main area displays three search results. The first result is 'Biochemistry' by MATHEWS, Christopher K, 4th ed., published by John Wiley in 1995. The second result is 'Biochemistry' by GLICK, David M, 11th ed., published by Prentice Hall in 1995. The third result is 'Biochemistry David M Glick' by GLICK, David M, 11th ed., published by Prentice Hall in 1995. Each result includes a 'Place hold' and 'Add to cart' button. Annotations with arrows point to the 'Search results' label, the 'Book covers' label, and the 'Biochemistry David M Glick' result.

Search results from the OPAC

The OPAC will display your results as shown above. On some results, you can see the actual book covers as they would appear in their physical form. This is because the OPAC communicates with some international organisations that digitise online books, e.g., Google Books. You can read book reviews and the table of contents of some books.

7. Now click on the title of a book, e.g. result number 2
8. This will give us a lot of information, such as the author's name, publication details, subjects, etc

The screenshot shows the detailed view of the book 'Biochemistry David M Glick' by GLICK, David M. The page includes a 'Normal view' tab, a book cover image, and various details like 'Material type: Text', 'Publication details: London Prentice Hall 1995', and 'Edition: 11th'. Annotations with arrows point to the 'Book copies' label, the 'Location' label, the 'Call number' label, and the 'Availability' label. The 'Holdings (2)' section is expanded, showing a table with columns: Item type, Current library, Call number, Copy number, Status, Date due, and Barcode.

Item type	Current library	Call number	Copy number	Status	Date due	Barcode
Book	Medical School Open Shelf	QD415.856 GLI (Browse shelf)	122564	Available		BK99597
Book	Medical School Open Shelf	QD415.856 GLI (Browse shelf)	122565	Available		BK99757

Detailed book information page

On the detailed information page, you get more information, such as:

1. Location of book
2. Number of copies per title
3. The call numbers
4. Subjects covered in the book
5. Publication details such as publisher, place of publication, and dates of publication
6. And a lot of other useful information

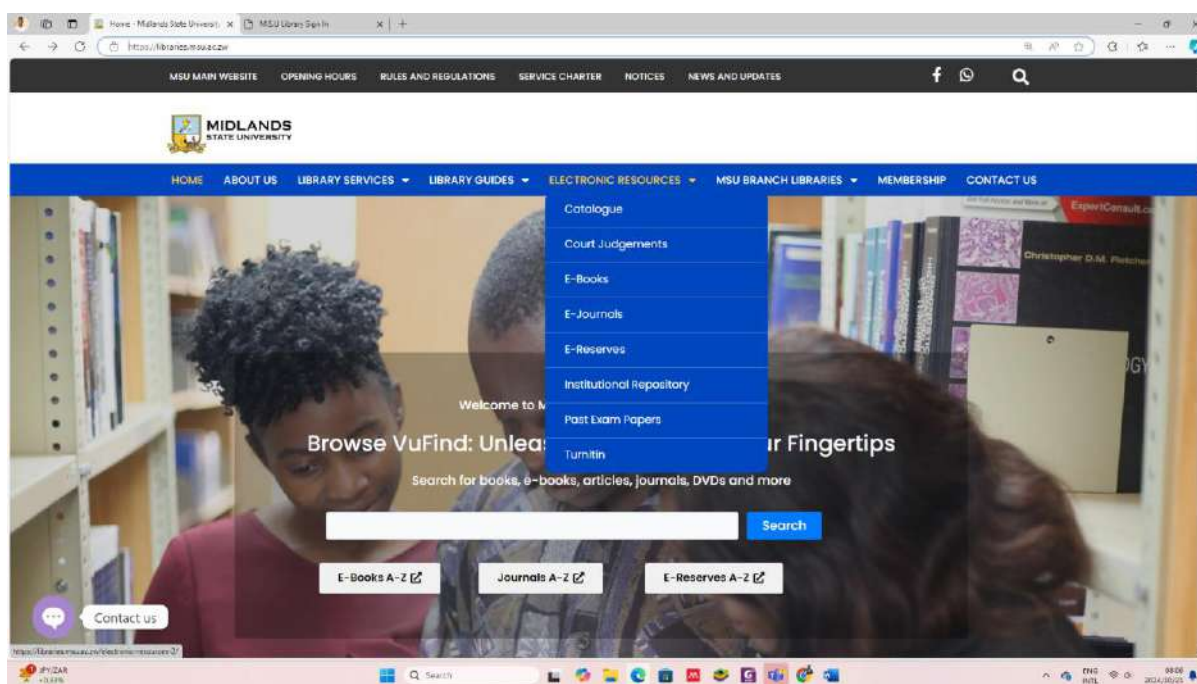
You can save your search results for later use using the “Lists” button. It would be best if you were logged on to do this.

SEARCHING FOR E-BOOK COLLECTIONS

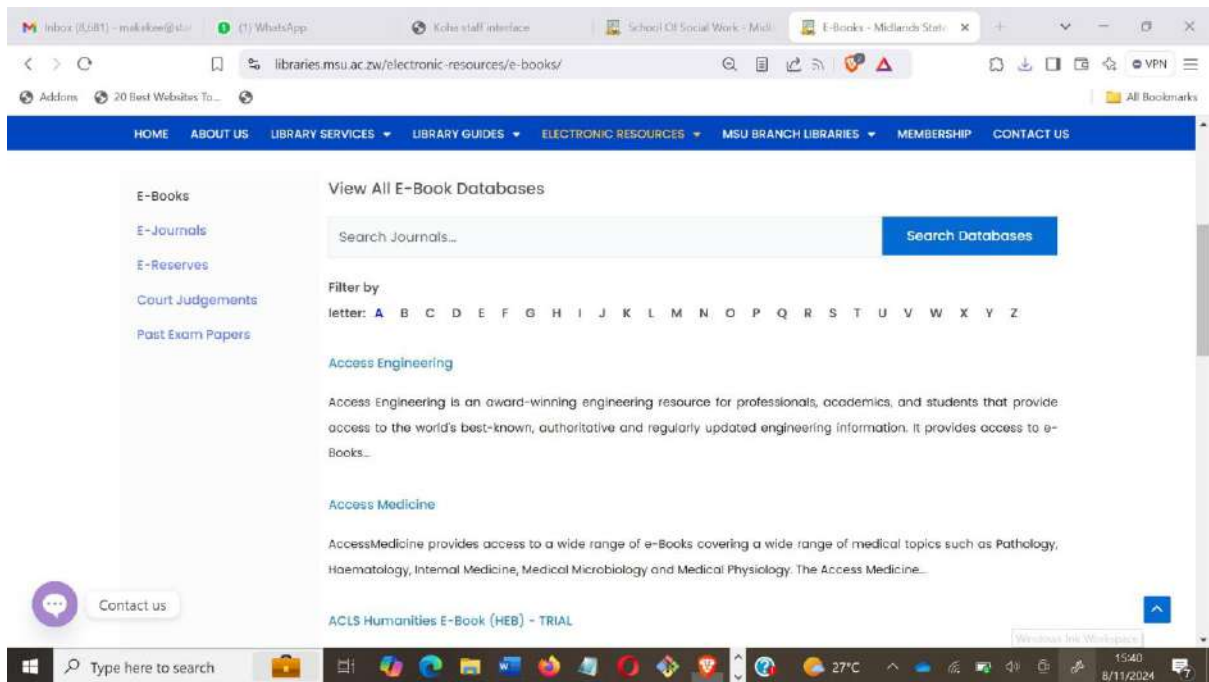
E-books are digital formats of traditional printed books. They can be accessed online via the internet or saved onto a computer for offline use. Many e-books are available in PDF format, requiring software like Acrobat Reader, Foxit, or PDF Complete to view them. Alternatively, some e-books are available as plain HTML text, allowing them to be read directly on a computer.

To access e-books, follow the steps below:

1. Open the browser and go to www.msu.ac.zw
2. Click on the Libraries link
3. Click on the “**Electronic Resources**”
4. Select “**e-Books**”
5. E-Books are arranged alphabetically, and under each e-Book name, there is a short description of the subject coverage
6. If you know the name of the e-book collection, type it in the search form, e.g. “**EBSCO Clinical Collection**”, and click on the “**Search Databases**” button
7. Click on the “**EBSCO Clinical Collection**” link; you will be prompted for your MSU e-mail username and password
8. Click on the login button – this will redirect you to the **EBSCO Clinical Collection** database
9. Carryout your research in **EBSCO Clinical Collection**



Library Homepage



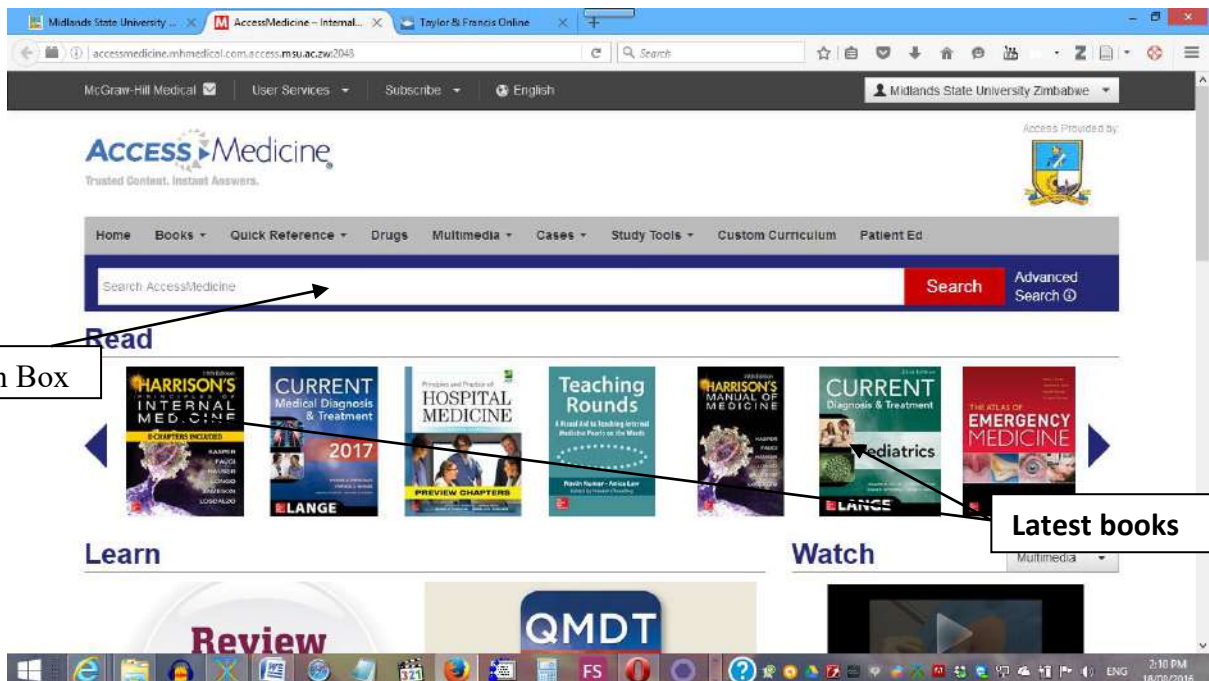
The e-Books page

1. Using the A- Z list, You can now jump from one collection to another.

If you know a particular e-book database by name, you can also type the name in the search box.

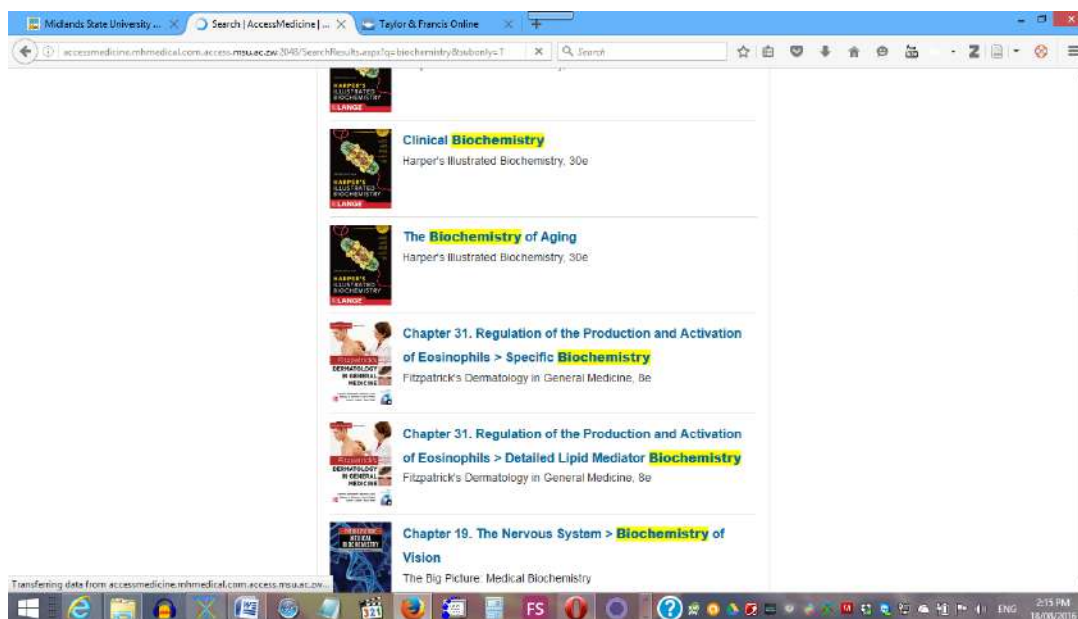
HOW TO SEARCH ACCESS MEDICINE E-BOOK COLLECTION

1. Follow steps 1 to 10 above, and you will be taken to the page below



Access Medicine Home page

2. In the search box, type in your search terms, e.g. “biochemistry”, and click the “Search” button.
3. You will be taken to a results page as shown below



Search results from Access Medicine

4. Click on a result of your choice to access the full text of that book chapter.

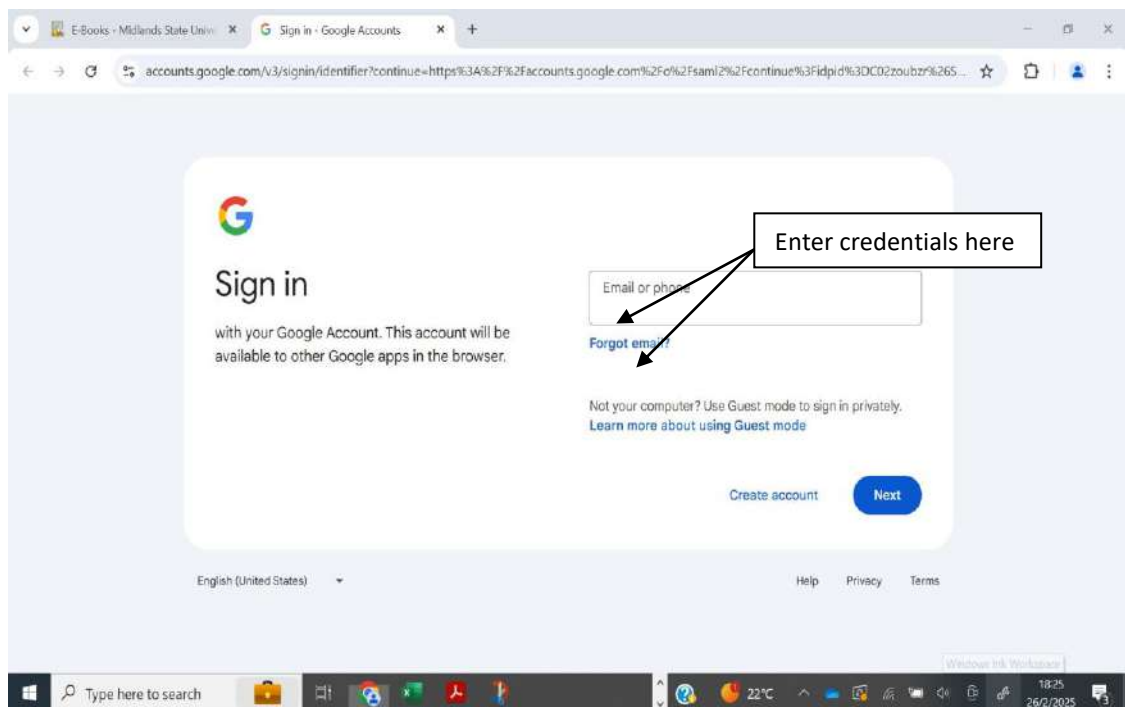
SPECIAL FEATURES FOR ACCESS MEDICINE

Like most online databases, Access Medicine has unique features that enable you to research efficiently. These include:

1. Ability to create and download different citation styles
2. Printing PDF versions of chapters
3. Creating a personal account
4. E-mailing your chapters to colleagues or yourself

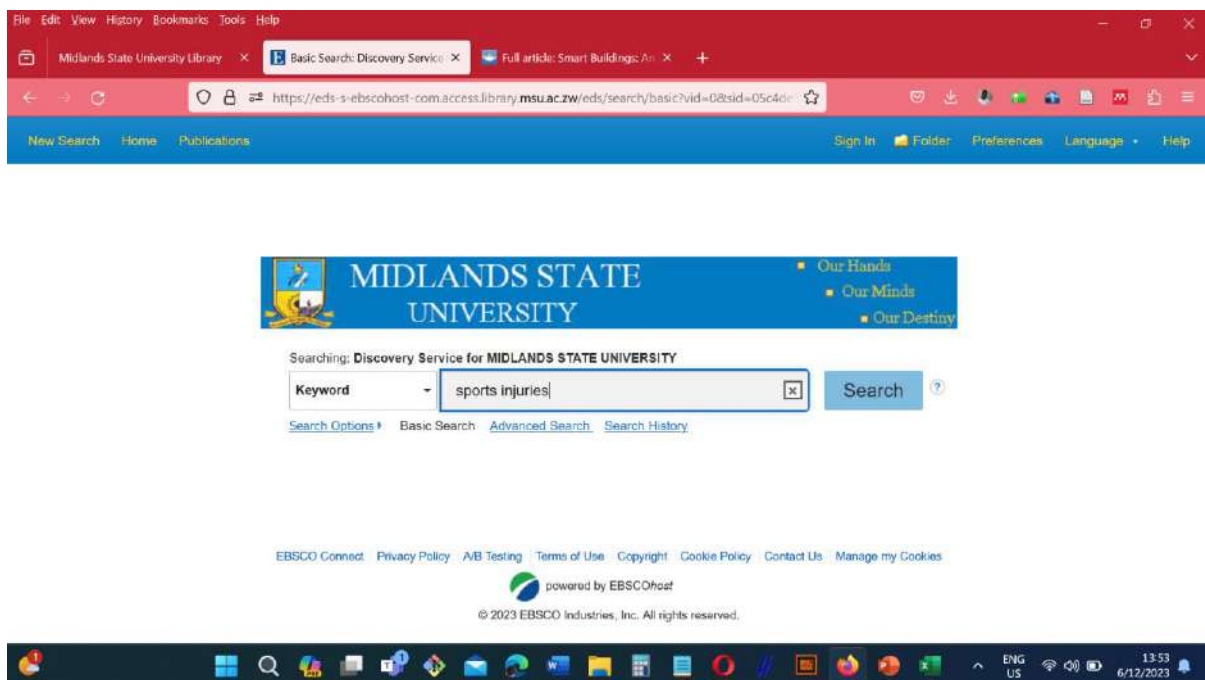
HOW TO SEARCH FOR EBSCOHOST CLINICAL COLLECTION

1. Follow Steps 1 - 8 from above, and you will be taken to the following screen



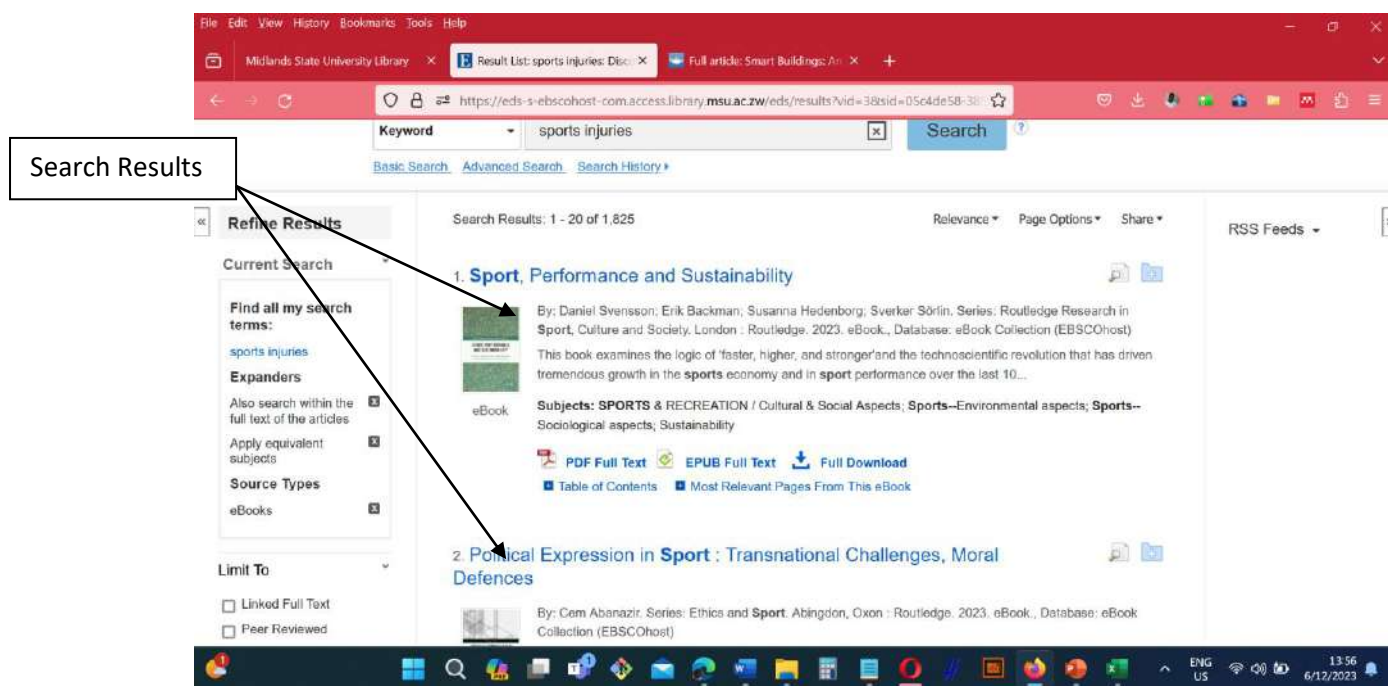
Login page for MSU e-mail

Login Page



EBSCO Clinical Collection Home Page

- i. Enter your search terms, e.g. “sports injuries”, and click the search button. You will be taken to the page shown on the next page.



Search Results

- ii. Now, you can click on the “Full text” or “Full text–PDF” links to download your documents.

HOW TO SEARCH PROQUEST E-BOOK CENTRAL

Proquest E-Book Central is an online digital library of full texts for over 55,000 scholarly e-books. It provides a set of online database collections that combine scholarly books from over 435 academic, trade, and professional publishers. It also includes sheet music (9,000 titles) and government documents.

To access Proquest E-Book Central, follow the steps below:

1. Open the browser and go to www.msu.ac.zw
2. Click on the Libraries link
3. Click on the “**Proquest E-Book Central.**”
4. Select “**e-Books**”
5. E-Books are arranged alphabetically, and under each e-Book name, there is a short description of the subject coverage
6. If you know the name of the e-book collection, type it in the search form e.g. “**Proquest E-Book Central**” and click on the “**Search Databases**” button
7. Click on the “**Proquest E-Book Central**” link; you will be prompted for your MSU e-mail username and password
8. Click on the login button – this will direct you to the **Proquest E-Book Central** database
9. Carryout your research in **Proquest E-Book Central**

biochemistry

Advanced Search Save this search

19920 book results

Refine your search

SORT BY Relevance

RESULTS PER PAGE 10

BOOK STATUS

☐ Owned and subscribed to by my library

☐ Unlimited Print, Copy, & Download

☐ Course Reserve

YEAR PUBLISHED

☐ 2023 133

☐ 2022 175

☐ 2021 255

More >

SUBJECT

☐ science / chemistry / general 683

☐ science / environmental science 563

☐ science / general 559

☐ technology & engineering / materials science / general 558

☐ science / life sciences / biology 553

More >

LANGUAGE

☐ English 19645

☐ German 112

☐ French 81

☐ Spanish; Castilian 41

☐ Czech 18

More >

Book Results Chapter Results

1 2 3 ... 1992 >

Biochemistry
Stenesh, J.
Springer 1998
ISBN: 9781475794298, 9781475794274
EDITION: 1

This text is intended for an introductory course in bio metabolism concludes with photosynthesis. The last sec chemistry. While such a course draws students from vari tion of the book, Part IV, TRANSFER OF GENETIC INFOR ous curricula, all students are presumed to have had at MATION, also opens with ...

Available

Biochemistry
Powar, C.B.; Chatwal, G.R.
Global Media 2007
ISBN: 9788183185493, 9781642875614

Available

Biochemistry Research Updates
Beginski, Simon J.
Nova Science Publishers, Incorporated 2011
ISBN: 9781612097008, 9781620816868
SERIES: Biochemistry Research Trends
EDITION: 1

This new book provides a study of biochemistry research trends across a broad spectrum of applications. Topics discussed include the biochemical, physiological and therapeutic aspects of some components of the large class of lipids; streptavidin-biotin binding and immunomodulatory constructs; cardia...

Results page

- ii. On a result of your choice click on the chapter of your choice to read the full text.

ProQuest Ebook Central™

Home Search Bookshelf Settings ? Sign In

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Medical Biochemistry

by N. V. Bhagavan

PUBLISHER Elsevier Science & Technology

DATE 2001-09-26

More...

Search within book

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Front Cover

Medical Biochemistry

Copyright Page

Contents

Amino Acids

Proteins are the most abundant class of organic compounds in the healthy, lean human body, constituting more than half of its cellular dry weight. Proteins are polymers of amino acids and have molecular weights ranging from approximately 10,000 to more than one million. Biochemical functions of proteins include catalysis, transport, contraction, protection, structure, and metabolic regulation. Amino acids are the monomeric units, or building blocks, of proteins joined by a specific type of covalent linkage. The properties of proteins depend on the character...

proteins have an amino group, a carboxyl group, a hydrogen atom, and an R-group attached to the α -carbon (Figure 2-7). *Proline* is an exception because it has a cyclic structure and contains a secondary amine group (called an imino group) instead of a primary amine group (called an amino group). Amino acids are classified according to the chemical properties of the R-group. Except for glycine ($R=H$), the amino acids have at least one asymmetrical carbon atom (the α -carbon). The absolute configuration of the four groups attached to

An e-book from Proquest E-Book Central

ProQuest E-Book Central has many features that aid in research and navigation. These include:

- A facility to individually register with your username and password
- A feature to create personalized bookshelves
- A feature to find similar books from your search results
- Ability to download book chapters onto mobile devices such as smartphones, iPads, or tablets
- Ability to download different types of citations

As with any database, this module cannot exhaust all the features of Proquest E-Book Central; therefore, you need to visit the database regularly to learn more about them.

ACCESSING E-JOURNALS

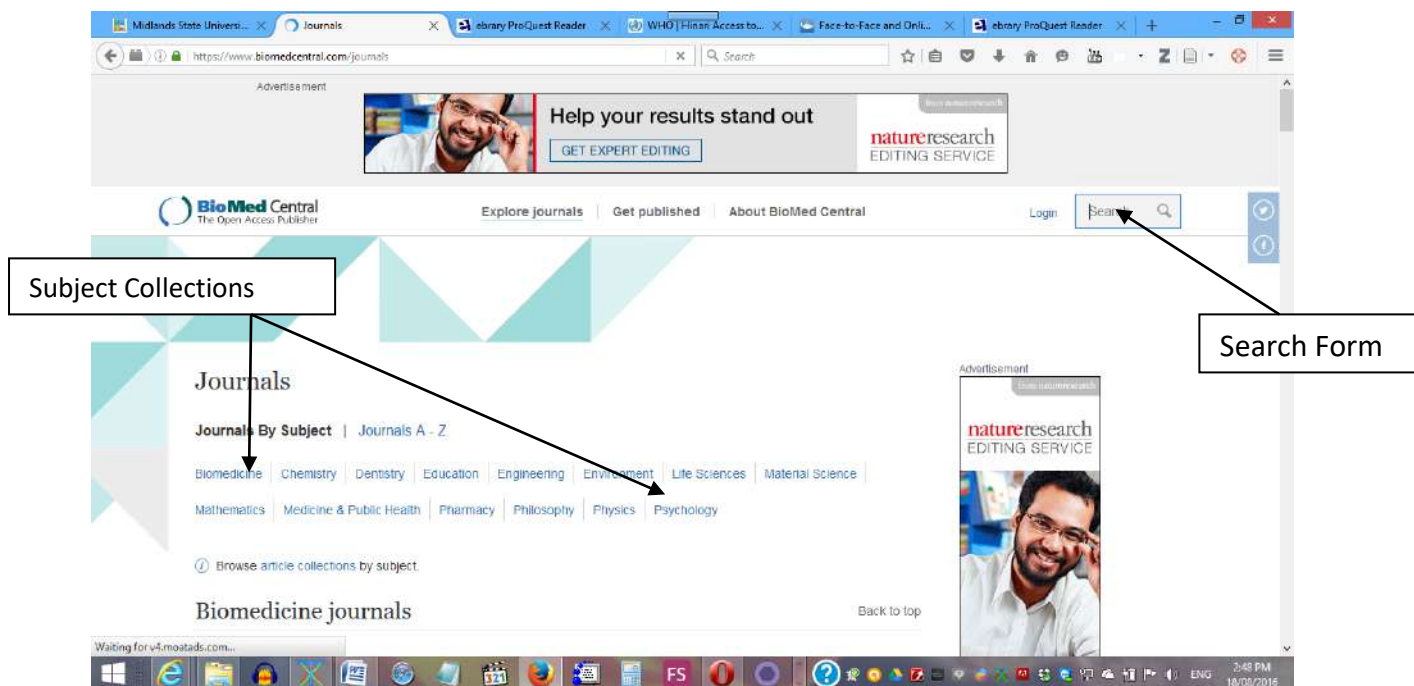
The library also subscribes to many e-journal databases for research, teaching, and learning purposes for students and staff. All databases are available both on campus and off campus.

STEPS IN ACCESSING E-JOURNAL DATABASES

1. Open the browser and go to www.msu.ac.zw
2. Click on the Libraries link
3. Click on the “**e-Databases**” tab
4. On the “**Select database type**” drop-down menu on the right select “**e-Journals**”
5. In the resultant screen, click on the “e-Journals” link on the left-hand side to browse through the e-Journals
6. Journals are arranged alphabetically and under each journal name there is a short description of the subject coverage
7. If you know the name of the database, type it in the search form e.g. “**Biomed central**” and click on the “**Search Databases**” button
8. Click on the “Biomed Central” link, you will be prompted for your MSU e-mail username and password
9. Click on the login button – this will redirect you to the Biomed Central database
10. Carryout your research in Biomed Central

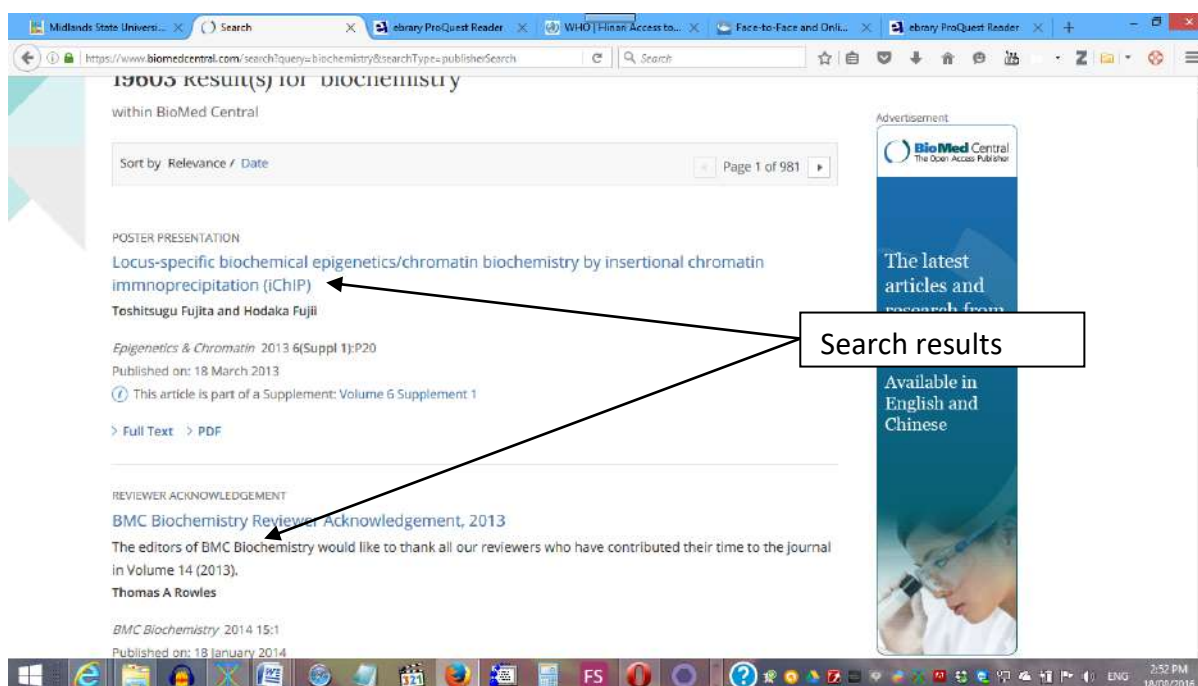
ACCESSING BIOMED CENTRAL

1. Follow steps 1 - 9 above - You will be taken to the Biomed Central homepage.



Biomed Central Home page

2. Enter your search terms inside the search form e.g. “biochemistry” and click on the search button.
3. Your results page will appear as shown below



Search results

4. Click on the full-text link under a result of your choice to go to the full-text document.

BIOMED CENTRAL FEATURES

1. Personal Account

You can create your account inside Biomed Central. This will enable you to view your recent and past searches, save your results, e-mail your documents to colleagues or yourself, and create your bookshelf.

2. Create Citation

Users can create a number of citations from the Biomed Central database

3. Print full text

4. Export References

You can export bibliographic references to a reference manager such as Endnote, Refworks, etc

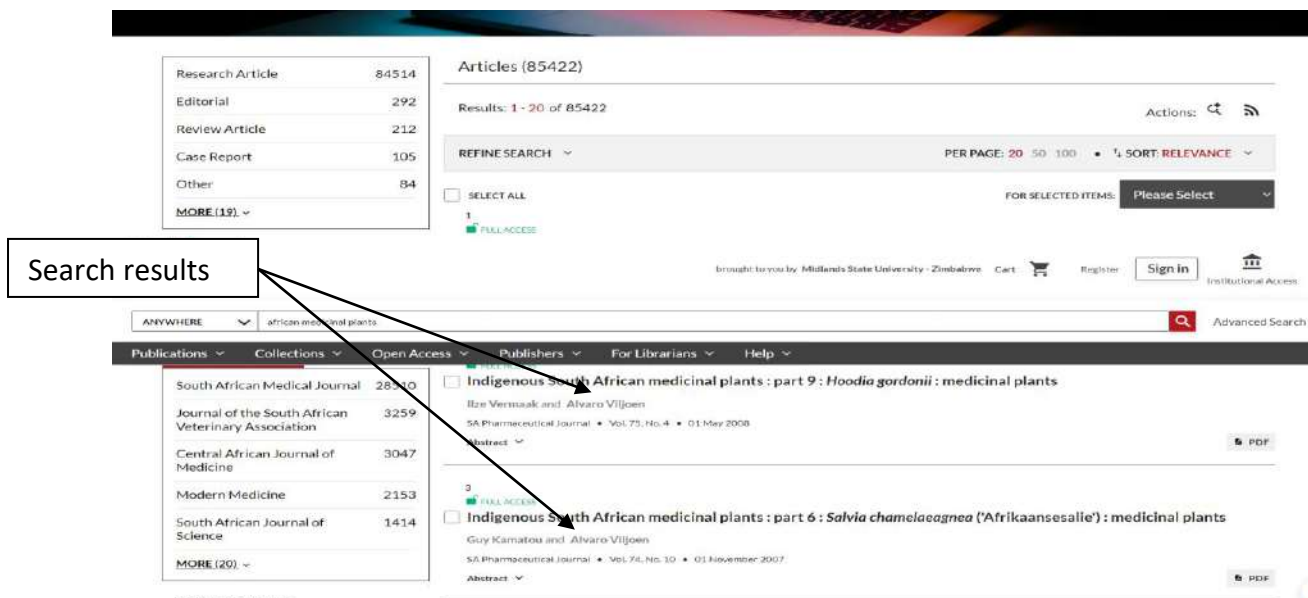
ACCESSING SABINET E-JOURNALS

1. Follow steps 1 - 10 above - You will be taken to the SABINET homepage.

The screenshot shows the SABINET Home Page in a web browser. The browser's address bar displays 'www.journals.co.za.access.msu.ac.zw:2048'. The page features a search bar at the top with the text 'Search all content' and a 'Go' button. Below the search bar is a navigation menu with links: 'A-Z Publications', 'Collections', 'Open Access', 'Publishers', 'For Librarians', and 'Help'. A 'Shopping Cart' icon is also visible. The main content area includes a large image of a globe with a network overlay, a sidebar with 'Sabinet African ePublications' and a list of subject collections (Open Access African Journal Archive, Business & Finance, Education, Labour, Law, Medicine & Health, Religion, Science, Technology & Agriculture, Social Sciences & Humanities), and sections for 'Recent articles' and 'Most read'. Annotations with arrows point to the 'Search all content' button and the 'Subject collections' link.

SABINET Home Page

2. In the “Search all content”, enter your preferred keywords, e.g. **“African medicinal plants”**, and click the search button. Your results will appear as shown below.



SABINET Search results

3. To open a full-text document, click the PDF link to download full-text.

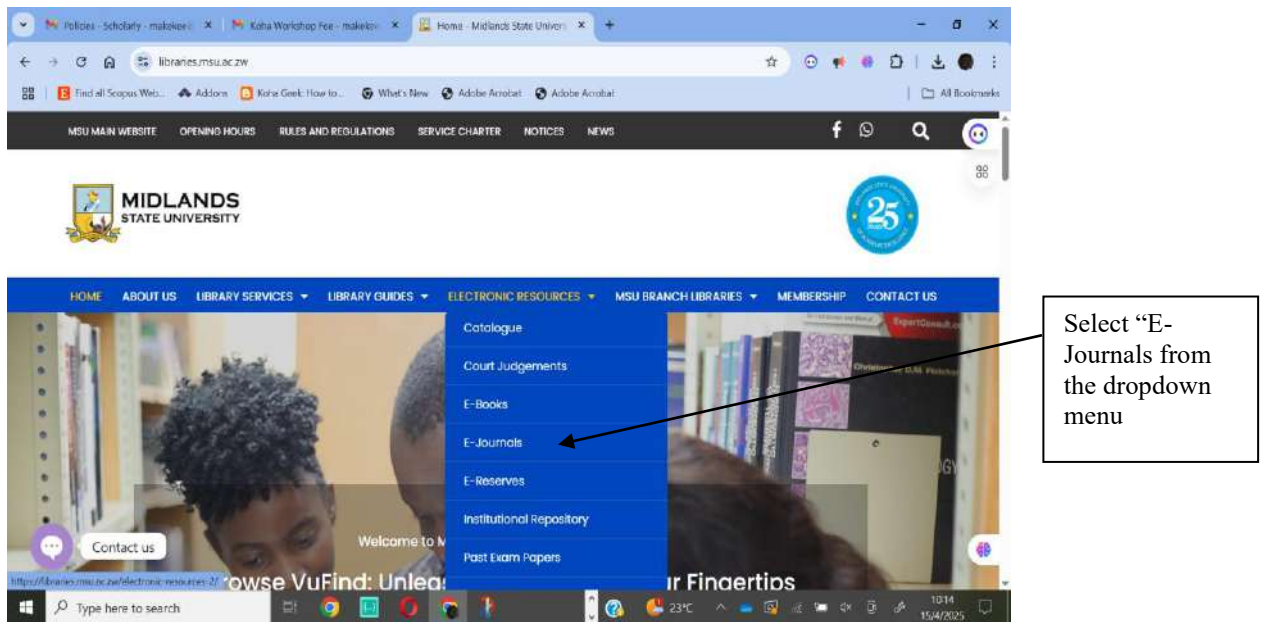
ACCESSING SCIENCE DIRECT E-JOURNALS

1. Open the browser and go to <https://login.research4life.org/tacgw/login.cshtml>
2. Login using username and password (Get this from the Circulation Desk or the Information Desk)
3. On the portal page click on "Research4Life Complete Collections link".
4. A new tab open displaying all the collections in Research4Life; do not close your window tab.
5. Under Collections, click on "Hinari" link, this will take you to the Content associated with Hinari page.
6. Click on "Elsevier" under the Information Provider heading
7. You will be directed to a page listing all titles from Science Direct.
8. Click on the Science Direct icon at the top of the page
9. Enter search terms to search for full text articles

You can follow the above steps using the pictorial diagrams below:

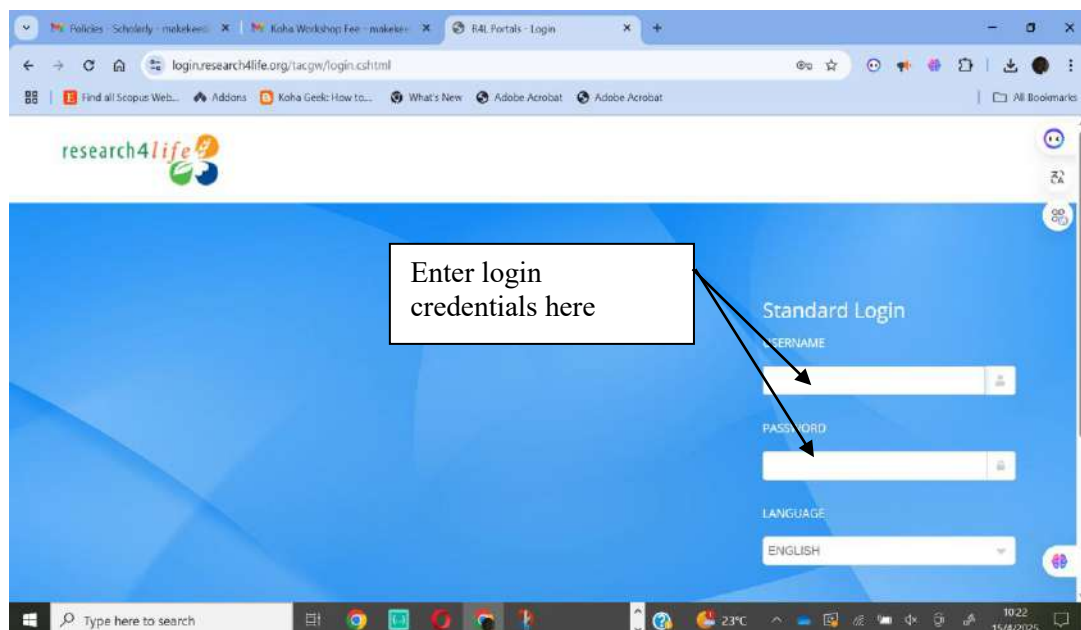
STEP 1

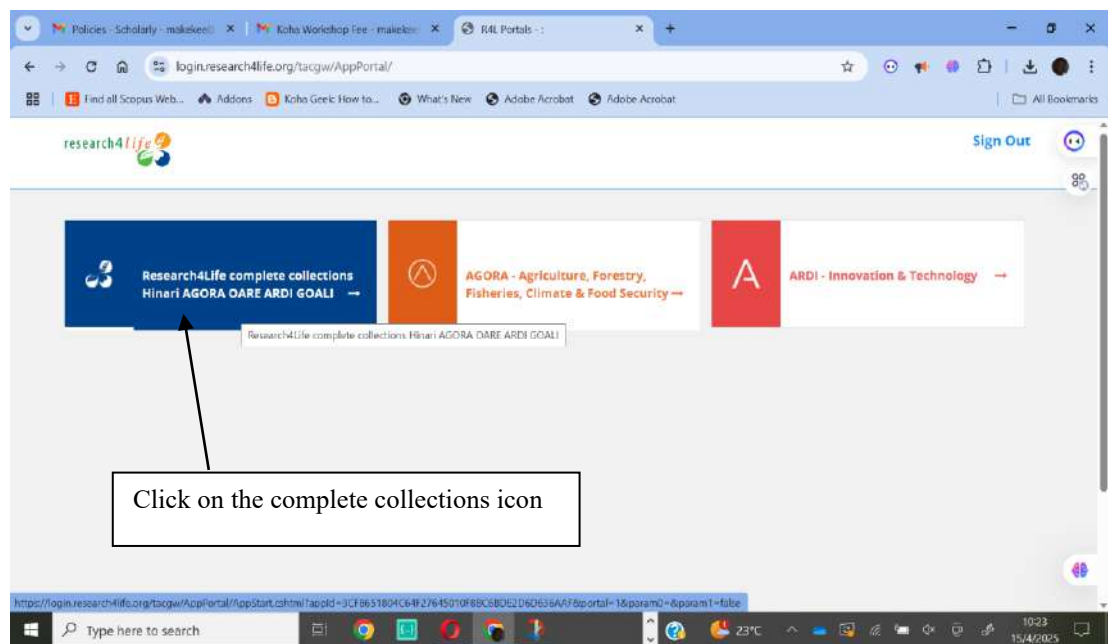
Go to <https://libraries.msu.ac.zw> and select e-Journals under "Electronic Resources"



STEP 2

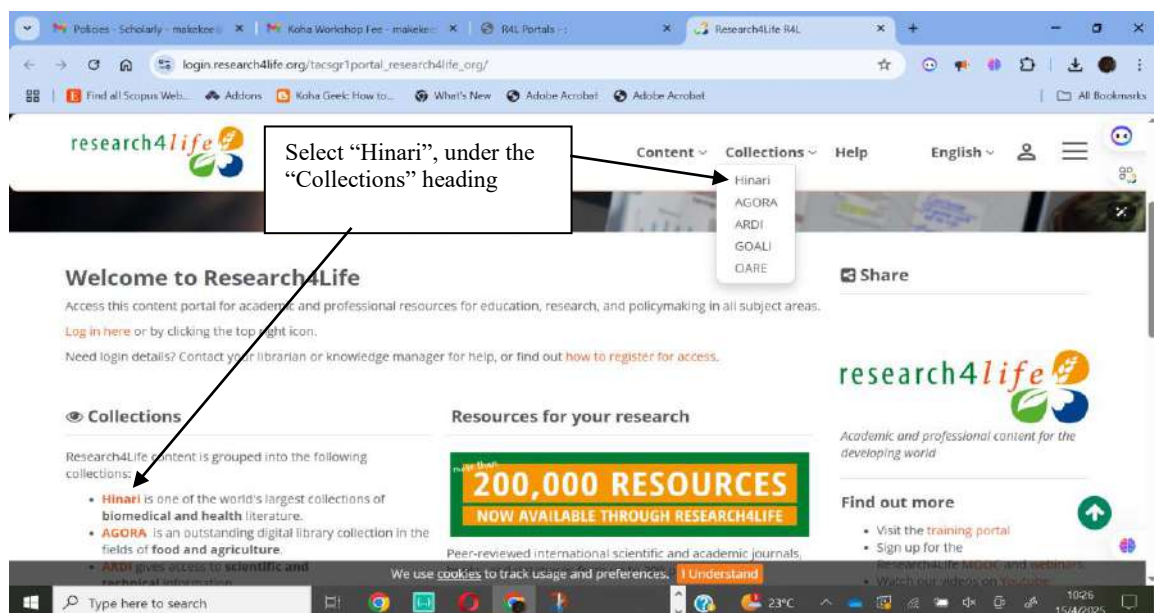
Scroll down your browser and click on the “Research4Life Portal”. You will be taken to the page shown below. Enter the username and password (Get this from the Circulation Desk or the Main Library Information Desk.)





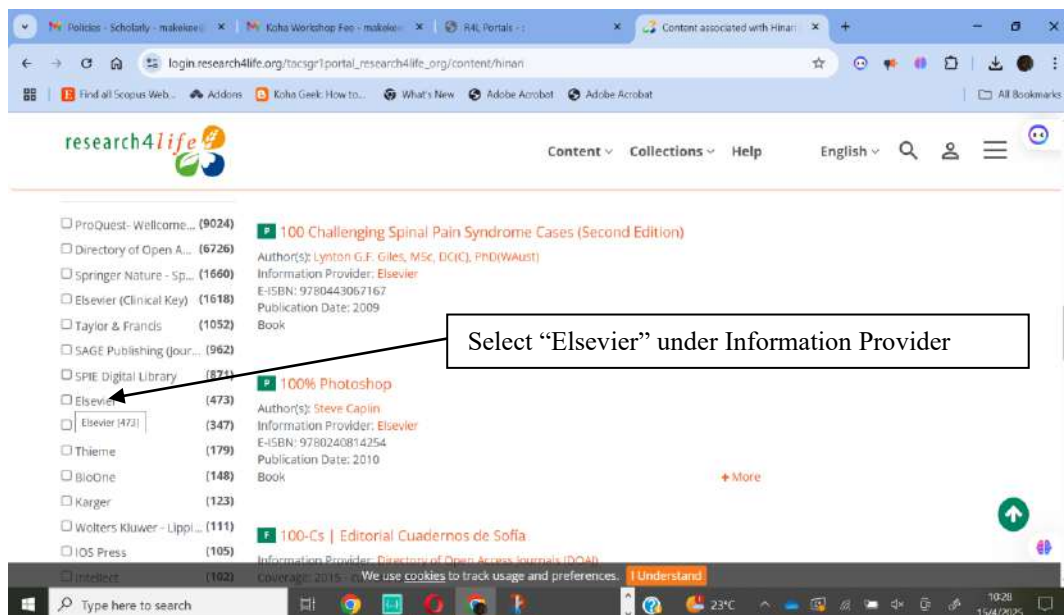
STEP 3

Click on the Research4Life Complete collections link, this will take you to the page below:



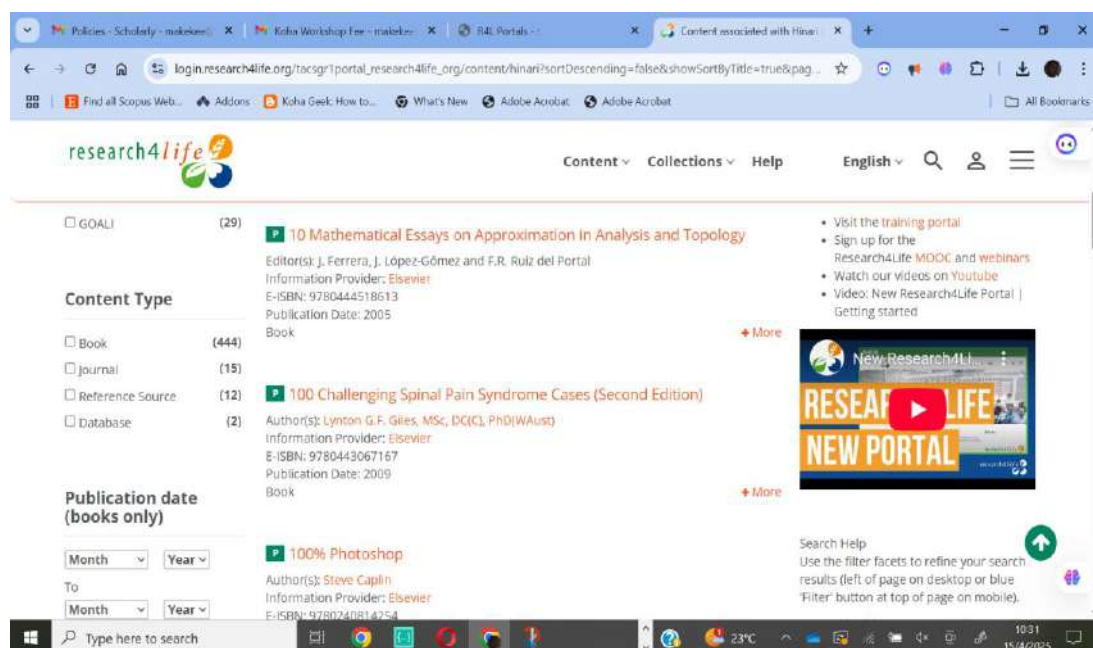
STEP 4

Under “Collections” select “Hinari”, this will take you to the page as shown below:



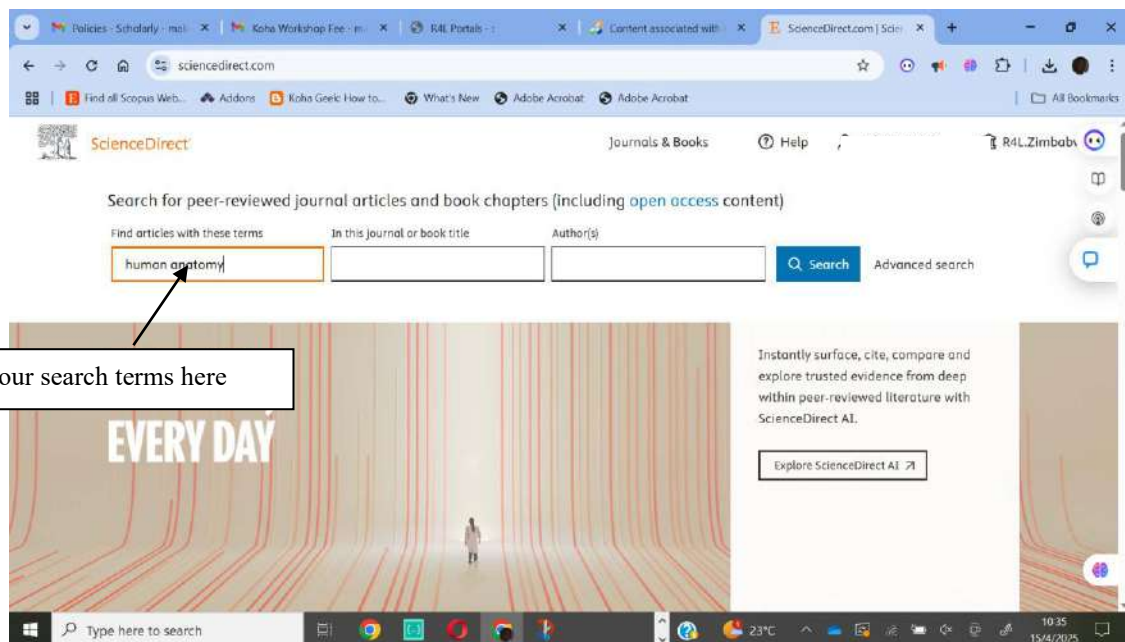
STEP 5

Under ‘Information Provider’, select the “Elsevier” check box. You are now directed to all titles from Elsevier, the providers of Science Direct

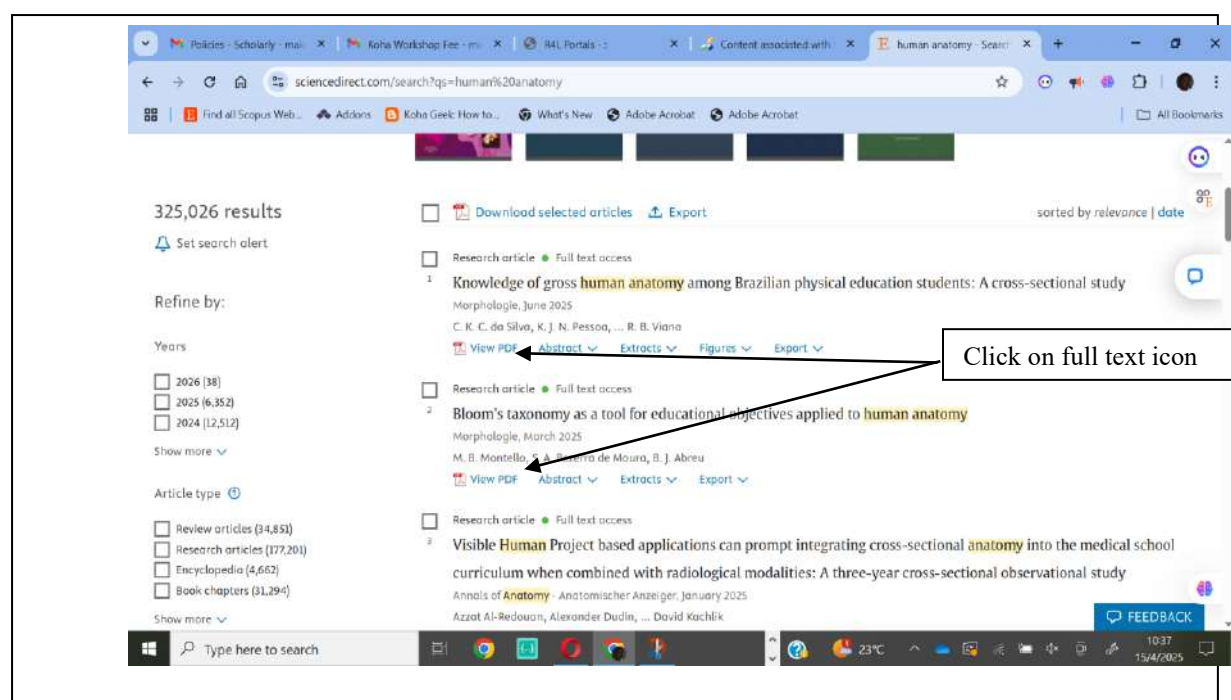


STEP 6

Click on any title to bring the Science Direct search page. This will allow you to perform various functions such as searching and browsing.



STEP 7



Enter search terms in the search box and click on the “Search” button to view results:

Search results from Science Direct

HOW TO ACCESS THE JORNAL OF VISUALISED EXPERIMENTS

JoVE (Journal of Visualized Experiments) is a peer-reviewed, collection of scientific experiments in video format. It is particularly useful for technique based disciplines such as Medicine and Health Sciences where visual demonstration improves understanding. It covers areas such as Surgical techniques, patient examinations, diagnostic procedures, Cell culture, flow cytometry, vaccine development, Tumour models, drug testing, molecular oncology techniques and Drug delivery, pharmacokinetics, toxicity assays among others.

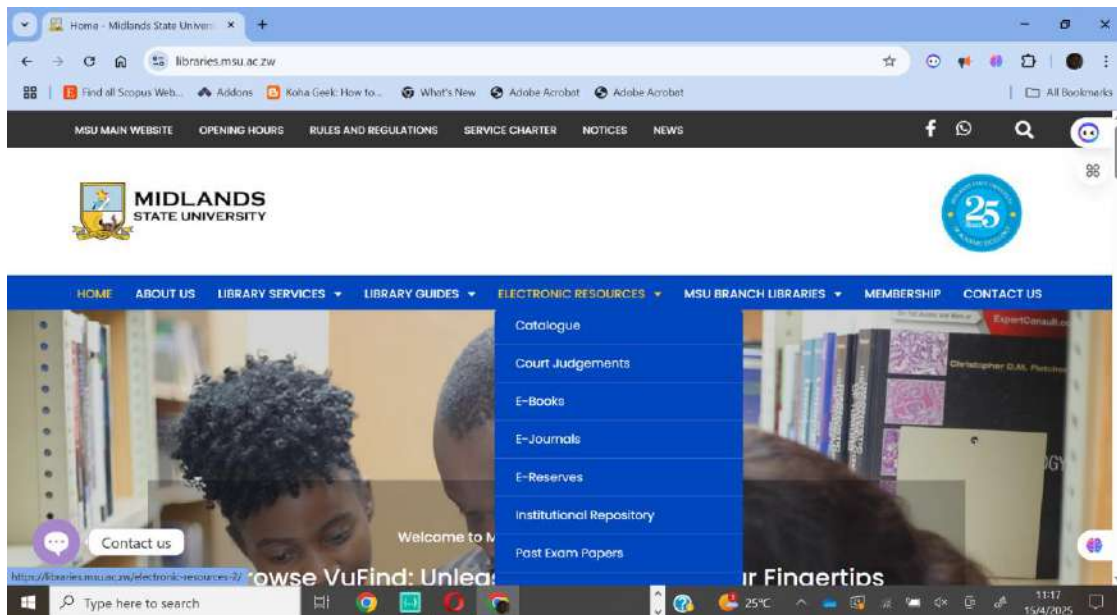
To access JoVE, follow the steps below:

1. Open the browser and go to www.msu.ac.zw
2. Click on the Libraries link
3. Click on the “**e-Databases**” tab
4. On the “**Select database type**” drop-down menu on the right select “**e-Journals**”
5. In the resultant screen, click on the “e-Journals” link on the left-hand side to browse through the e-Journals
6. Journals are arranged alphabetically and under each journal name there is a short description of the subject coverage
7. If you know the name of the database, type it in the search form e.g. “**JOVE**” and click on the “**Search Databases**” button
8. Click on the “**Journal of Visualized Experiments**” link, you will be prompted for your MSU e-mail username and password
9. Click on the login button – this will redirect you to the **Journal of Visualized Experiments**
10. Carryout your research in **Journal of Visualized Experiments**

The above steps can be followed using the pictorial representation below.

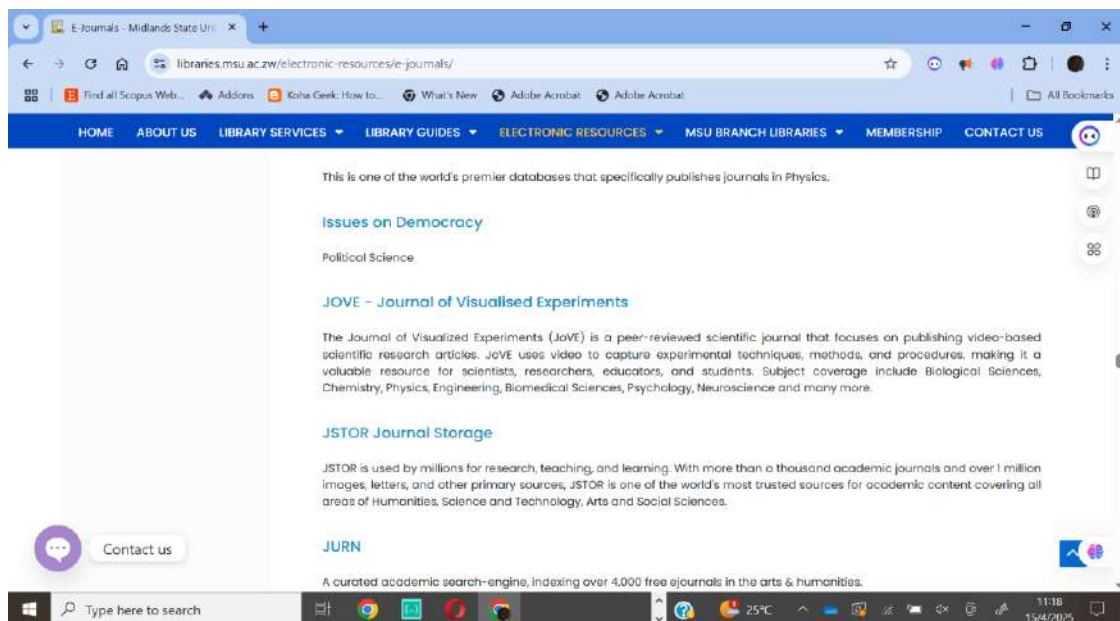
STEP 1

Select “E-Journals” from the drop down menu.



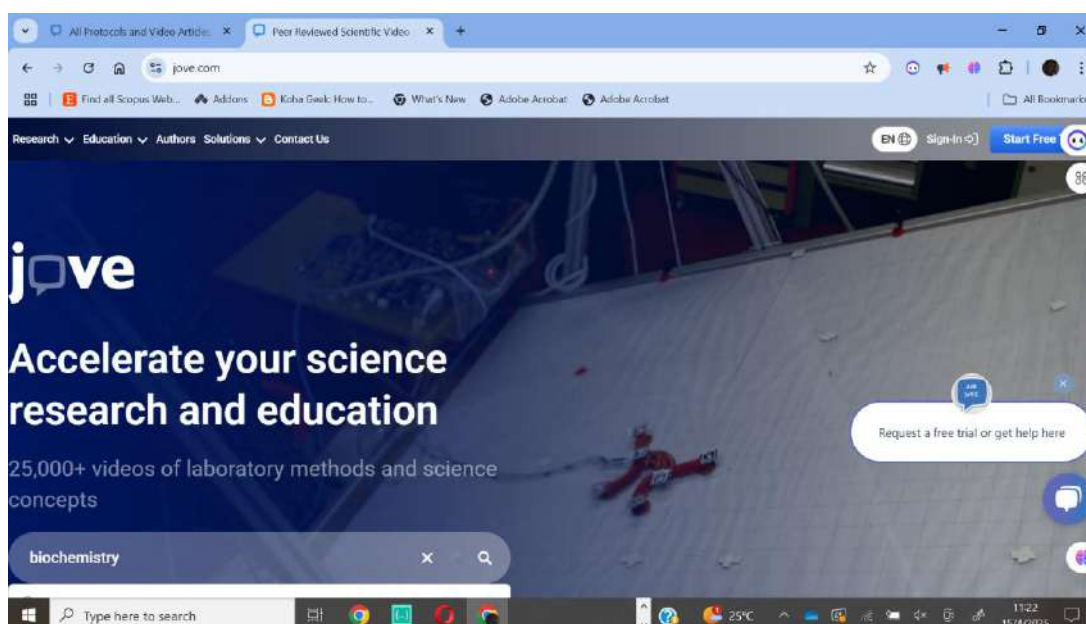
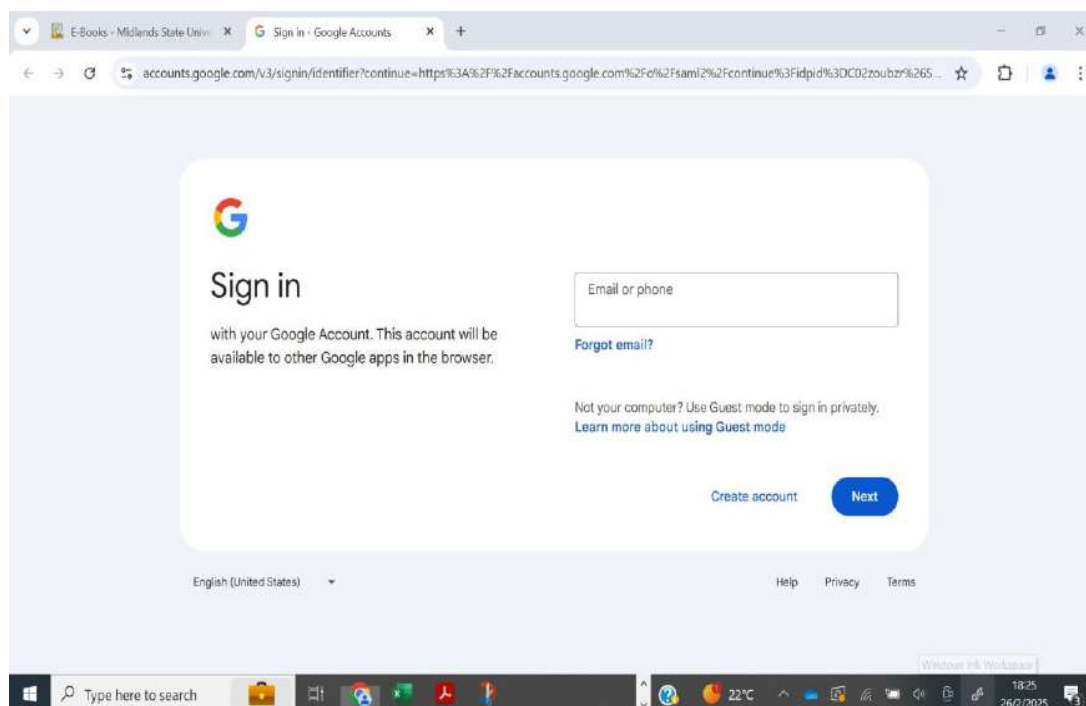
STEP 2

Scroll down the page and click on “JOVE – Journal of Visualised Experiments”

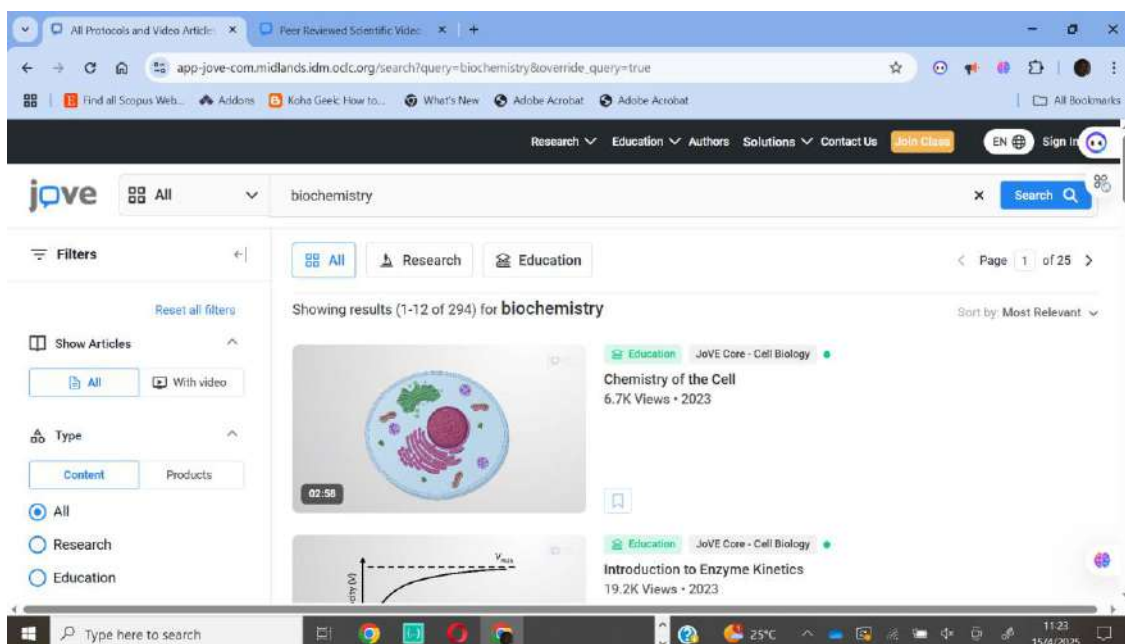


STEP 4

Enter your MSU e-mail address and password



Enter your search terms in the search box and click on the search icon



Your video results

ADDITIONAL FEATURES FROM JOVE

The Journal of Visualized Experiments (JoVE) offers several personalised features designed to enhance the research experience for scientists, educators, and students. Here are some key features tailored for researchers and students.

- ✓ Save and organise JoVE videos in your personal account for quick access.
- ✓ Customizable alerts for new videos in specific research areas (e.g., neuroscience, cell biology).
- ✓ Notifications for newly published articles matching a researcher's interests.
- ✓ Instructors can customize lab manuals with JoVE videos and quizzes for courses.
- ✓ JoVE supports citation exports to EndNote, Zotero, and Mendeley.

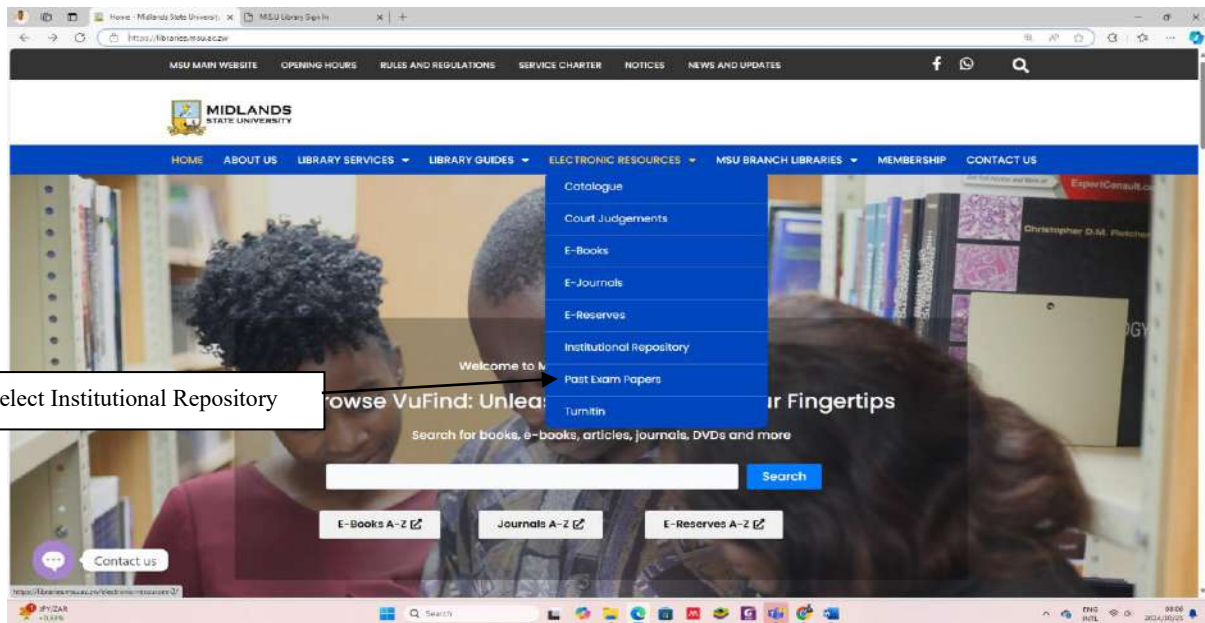
ACCESSING THE MSU INSTITUTIONAL REPOSITORY (IR)

The MSU Institutional Repository (IR) is a digital repository of academic works produced by the MSU community. It contains collections of Research papers, Conference papers, Dissertations, Speeches, Books, and Book Chapters. Apart from being a digital archive of MSU research outputs, the platform also serves as a metrics-tracking tool for researchers to check their research impact. The metrics include the number of downloads, number of page views, and the geographical locations from where their articles were viewed or downloaded. The MSU Institutional Repository


HOW TO ACCESS THE MSUIR

To access the MSU IR follow the following steps:


1. Login to www.msu.ac.zw ;
2. On the MSU home page click on the “Libraries” link
3. On the Library home page click on the “Institutional Repository” as shown below.




4. You will be taken to the screen shown below


[Home](#)
[Faculty Research Collections](#)
[Research Outputs](#)
[Researchers](#)
[Organizations](#)
[Projects](#)

[Sign on to:](#)





**MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY
LIBRARY**


**A TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN
INFORMATION RESOURCE
CENTRE WITH QUALITY SERVICES
AND OUTSTANDING
COLLECTIONS**

Midlands State University Institutional Repository

Midlands State University Institutional Repository

Welcome to the Midlands State University Institutional Repository, an open access digital archive that collects, maintains, disseminates and distributes the research output produced by members of the Midlands State University (MSU) community. The electronic archive promotes the intellectual output of MSU in line with the Education 5.0 doctrine to advance research innovation and industrialisation.


All



MSU Researchers

228


Explore the researcher community



Repository other entities

673

Explore entities



Publications, books, articles...

5111

Explore publications

Most Viewed

The impact of cash flow management on the profitability and sustainability of small to medium sized enterprises **2,242**

Article **Type**

Corporal punishment in schools: issues and challenges **864**

research article **Type**

Most Downloaded

The impact of cash flow management on the profitability and sustainability of small to medium sized enterprises **1,878**

Article **Type**

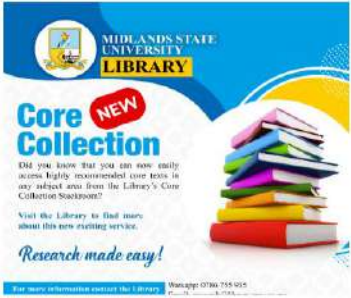
Exploring the significance of service quality on customer satisfaction, : a case study of DHL Express Zimbabwe (Private) **768**

research article **Type**

Recent Submissions

Covid-19: impact on religion and spirituality in Zimbabwe **Type** research article

Power and accountability – Using Biblical lenses to explore contemporary challenges in Africa **Type** research article



MSU Institutional Repository Homepage

1. Enter your search terms inside the search box e.g. “property law” and click on the “Search” button.
2. You will be taken to the screen shown below

Midlands State University Institutional Repository

Search

for

Publications

Prevalence of dysmenorrhea and associated risk factors among university students in Zimbabwe [11-Aug-2023]

Keywords: Prevalence

Abstract: model. Results: The prevalence of dysmenorrhea was 75.9%, with 28.6% of sufferers describing their pain as severe. Dysmenorrhea significantly affected the school/daily activities of respondents ($\chi^2 = 18.22$, $p < 0.001$). Family history ($\chi^2 = 4.28$, $p = 0$)

The Relationship between Pain and Vascular Function Biomarkers in Dysmenorrhoeal University Students [24-Sep-2020]

Keywords: Dysmenorrhea

Abstract: -II). This study was a longitudinal randomized clinical study that involved 95 female students between 17-25 years. The control participant group were students who, without medications, had not experienced dysmenorrhea, while the inclusion criteria were primary

The prevalence of child sexual abuse among secondary school pupils in Gweru, Zimbabwe [2013]

Keywords: Prevalence

Abstract: an overall prevalence rate of 56.3%, with no significant gender differences. Both non-contact and contact forms of sexual abuse were prevalent. Both adults and peers were reported as perpetrators. Perpetrators were reported to be familiar people, which

Browse

By type

Publications 172

Search Results from MSU Institutional Repository

3. Click on an article title to get to the following page

Article metrics

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Title: Prevalence of dysmenorrhea and associated risk factors among university students in Zimbabwe

Authors: Trust Nyirenda
Elliot Nyagumbo
Grant Murewanhema
Nyasha Mukonwenzou
Shingira Brenda Kagodora
Cladnos Mapfumo
Michael Bhebehe
Jacob Mufunda
Department of Anatomy and Cellular Biology, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, Khalifa University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates; Department of Physiology, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Midlands State University, Midlands, Zimbabwe
Department of Biochemistry, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Midlands State University, Midlands, Zimbabwe; Department of Biomedical Sciences, School of Medical and Health Sciences, Great Zimbabwe University, Masvingo, Zimbabwe
Unit of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Department of Primary Health Care Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Zimbabwe, Harare, Zimbabwe
Department of Anatomy and Physiology, Faculty of Medicine, National University of Science & Technology, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe; Department of Physiological Sciences, Faculty of Sciences, Stellenbosch University, Stellenbosch, South Africa

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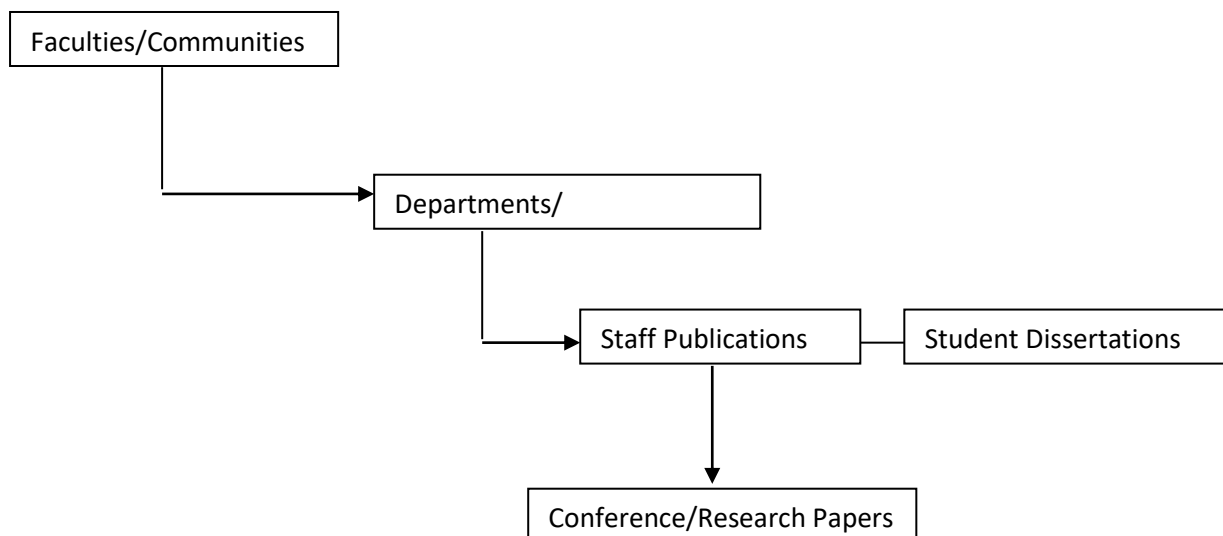
Altmetric
5

Click on the pdf link to open the full text.

4. Click on the PDF link to open the full text of the article.

The MSU IR is organised according to communities; these communities directly translate into faculties at MSU. Each Faculty is further divided into Departments and under each department, we get staff publications and student dissertations. Under staff publications, we get Conference Papers and Research Papers.

In a nutshell, the structure of the MSU IR is represented by the tree below. You can also use the tree to browse through collections.



SEARCHING FOR PAST EXAMINATION PAPERS

Past examination papers are a valuable resource that helps you prepare for examinations. They allow you to stay focused on important topics, and they also assist you in preparing for real examination-style questions. You can access past examination papers through the MSU Library web page.

Follow the steps below to access past examination papers:

1. Go to www.msu.ac.zw
2. Click on the "Libraries" link.
3. On the Library webpage, click on "Electronic Resources" and then select "Past Exam Papers"
4. You will be requested to enter your MSU E-Mail and password
5. On the Past Exam Papers page, enter the paper module code or name, e.g. "Introduction to information technology" or HCS135
6. Click the "Search" button to get a list of past examination papers.
7. You can now download your past examination paper to your computer.

QUICK ONLINE SEARCH TECHNIQUES

Getting Started

Before searching, it's important to define your topic as completely and as clearly as possible. Write down exactly what information you're looking for, why you're looking for it, and what you're *not* looking for. This will help you to discover the best keywords for your search.

Keywords

You can effectively search the Internet using keywords from your research question. It is recommended that you avoid verbs and use modifiers only when they help to be more precise in your search - as in "information literacy" rather than just "literacy."

Use of Phrases

Your most powerful keyword combination is the phrase. Phrases are combinations of two or more words that must be found in the documents you're searching for in the EXACT order shown. You enter a phrase - such as "information systems" - into a search engine, within quotation marks.

Some searches provide specific options for phrases, while others don't allow them at all; but most will allow you to enter a phrase in quotation marks. Check the "Help" files of the search engine you're using to be sure what it accepts.

Punctuation and Capitalization

Another way to get results that are relevant to your information needs is to use quotation marks. For instance, if you are searching for Academic Libraries in Zimbabwe, you will get more relevant results if you enclose the search terms in quotation marks than if you do not e.g. "*Academic Libraries*".

Please also note that most search engines are insensitive to cases: you can type your queries in uppercase, lowercase, or a mix of cases. If you use lowercase, most engines will match both upper and lower case; so, for general searches, lowercase is the safest form to use.

Not all search engines handle punctuation the same way. When in doubt, consult the "Help" file.

ADVANCED SEARCH ENGINE STRATEGIES

The following search techniques can be used with most search engines such as Google and Yahoo and most electronic databases. These techniques are found in the advanced zone of most online search engines.

Boolean Basics

"Boolean" searching (named after George Boole, the 19th-century mathematician who founded the field of symbolic logic) is a powerful technique that can narrow your search

to a reasonable number of results, and increase the chance of those results being useful. Boolean searches are simple to learn and tremendously effective. The three most commonly used Boolean commands (or "operators") are **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT**.

AND means "I want only documents that contain both/all words." For instance, the search "Harare" AND "First Street Mall" AND "Bulawayo" AND "Africa Unity Square" would return only documents that contained all four keywords or phrases. AND is the most frequently used Boolean command.

OR means "I want documents that contain either word; I don't care which." The query "Harare" OR "Bulawayo" OR "First Street Mall" OR "Africa Unity Square" would return all documents that contained even one of these four keywords or phrases. Use OR to string together synonyms; be careful about mixing it with AND.

NOT means "I want documents that contain this word, but not if the document also contains another word." The query "Harare" AND "Bulawayo" AND NOT "Africa Unity Square" would return documents that include Harare and Bulawayo, but not those that also include Africa Unity Square. Remember that AND NOT only applies to the word or phrase that immediately follows it.

Most search engines support the AND NOT command. It is sometimes called BUT NOT or NOT and is sometimes indicated by placing a minus sign (-) before the term or phrase to be removed. (Check the search tips of the engine you're using to see which form of AND NOT it accepts). Before you apply AND NOT, see what results you get from a simpler search. AND NOT is a great way to weed out results you don't want, such as pornography.

Quick Tips

- Use nouns as query keywords. Never use articles ("a," "the"), pronouns ("he," "it"), conjunctions ("and," "or"), or prepositions ("to," "from") in your queries
- Where possible, combine keywords into phrases by using quotation marks, as in "solar system"
- Spell carefully, and consider alternate spellings where necessary
- Avoid redundant terms
- Check the "Help" function of the particular search engine you're using, since they all have their quirks and preferences

A successful Internet search can take several tries. But remember: it's estimated that there are between 200 and 800 million documents online - with no master system for organizing this information! No wonder effective searches take know-how, patience, and ingenuity.

EVALUATING INTERNET INFORMATION

The web provides access to a plethora of information. Information put on the internet cannot be regulated to verify its truthfulness, accuracy, or timeliness. Anyone can set up a website and within a week he can post whatever he wants. It is important to cite authoritative information sources. In this section, we are going to look at some of the criteria that are used to evaluate a website.

Authority/Author

- Who is responsible for the page, is an individual or an organisation? What are the qualifications? Can they be contacted? Is the author/publisher affiliated with an educational institution, a government department, a commercial company, a non-profit organization?
- Check the footer of the web page to see if this information is there.

Objectives

- You need to find out why the website was created. Is the site scholarly, commercial, or personal?
- Is the author trying to sell something, persuade you to think in a certain way or is he trying to inform you?

Currency

- Is the information on the page up to date? Does the page tell you when the page was updated or edited? Are there dead links?

Coverage/Scope

- What is the focus of the site? Are there clear headings to illustrate an outline of the content? Is the navigation within the website clear?
- Check the header for a clear title and web site description
- Check the content for headings and keywords
- Check the navigation to reflect the content outline within the web site

Biases and Affiliations

- Check the content for statement of purpose and to determine the type of website and potential audience.
- Check the URL is it a .gov, .com, .net, or .org
- Also check for graphics, and cues for affiliations e.g. logos

Clarity

- Is the text neat, legible, and formatted for easy reading?
- Is the information clearly presented?
- If there are graphics, do they add to the content or distract?
- If there are advertisements, do they interfere with your ability to use the page?
- Are the pages well organized?
- Are there mistakes in spelling or word usage?

APPENDIX 1

SUBJECT GUIDE TO DATABASES

FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

e-JOURNALS	e-BOOKS
Annual Reviews EBSCOHST JSTOR Mary Anne Liebert Oxford Journals Science Direct Project Muse Research4Life Royal Society of Chemistry Sabinet Sage Journals Scopus Springerlink Journals UpToDate	Access Medicine Proquest e-book Central EBSCOhost Clinical Collection Proquest Central Science Direct Science Direct e-Books Springer e-Books Safari O'Reilly Ovid Books Online Research4Life

	Audio-Visual Materials
1.	Henry Stewart Talks Biomedical and Life Sciences
2.	Journal of Visualised Experiments
3.	Access Medicine
4.	Proquest Central