

Glendale College Library Information Competency Workshops Searching Online Catalogs

Exercise I: Answer the three questions below using the GCC Library Online Catalog. Then, make some notes about things you discover or observe while using GCC's online catalog. For instance: Do some methods of searching seem more or less efficient than others? Is it user-friendly? What's the most important tip you would give a friend about each search?

1. You are doing research on the question, "is time travel possible?" Your instructor says there is a chapter about the possibility of time travel in Stephen Hawking's book, The Universe in a Nutshell. Does the library have this book? _____

What did you discover/observe about GCC's online catalog and how it works while answering this question?

2. For your speech class you have chosen to give a speech defining the pro and con arguments about the death penalty. Does the library have any books about the death penalty in the United States? _____

What did you discover/observe about GCC's online catalog and how it works while answering this question?

3. For your English class you have to write a paper analyzing one of William Shakespeare's sonnets. Your instructor said that it would be good to read some different interpretations of Shakespeare's poetry before writing your own. Does the library have any books about Shakespeare's sonnets? _____

What did you discover/observe about GCC's online catalog and how it works while answering this question?

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Exercise II: Answer the same three questions as in Exercise I, but this time use a different library's online catalog. Compare each search in the new catalog with the search you did in the GCC Library Online Catalog. How is it similar? How is it different? Begin with the catalog assigned to you. Try the other catalogs if you have enough time. You can connect to the other libraries from the **Find Books in Other Libraries** link on the GCC Library home page.

	Pasadena City College Library	CSU Los Angeles Library	Los Angeles Public Library
1. You are doing research on the question: Is time travel possible? Your instructor says there is a chapter about the possibility of time travel in Stephen Hawking's book, <u>The Universe in a Nutshell</u> . Does the library have this book?	Answer: Comparison:	Answer: Comparison:	Answer: Comparison:
2. For your speech class you have chosen to give a speech defining the pro and con arguments about the death penalty in the United States. Does the library have any books about the death penalty in the USA?	Answer: Comparison:	Answer: Comparison:	Answer: Comparison:
3. For your English class you must write a paper analyzing one of William Shakespeare's sonnets. Your instructor said that it would be okay to read some different interpretations of Shakespeare's poetry before writing your own. Does the library have any books about Shakespeare's sonnets?	Answer: Comparison:	Answer: Comparison:	Answer: Comparison: