Using VCU Libraries Search: Part 1

The best place to begin looking for information for your research paper or project is the VCU Libraries Search. This gold search box in the middle of the VCU Libraries homepage allows you to simultaneously search articles, journals, books, media, and more. My research paper is related to “euthanasia” so I will start by typing the word “euthanasia” and then I will hit the Search. After the search, I am taken to a new page with over fifteen thousand results! The first page features mostly books and articles. I can see that this article, titled “Euthanasia,” by RM Friedenberg, has the full text available online. To access this article, I will click View Online, and then I will follow one of the blue links.

Let’s see what else is here.

If I am interested in using a book, I first check to make sure that it is available, and then I note which collection it is in. This book, “Euthanasia: A reference handbook,” by Carolyn Roberts, is available, and is located in the Cabell Library General Collection. I need to write down this entire call number in order to find this book on the shelf, and then I will go to the fourth floor of Cabell Library in order to locate it. Books in Cabell Library general collection that start with the letters A through E are on the first floor, Books with call numbers starting with F through N are on the third floor, and books with call numbers starting with P through Z are on the fourth floor.
Books may be located in other areas, such as the Reference Collection, or they could be in storage. You may also discover that many of the books are actually electronic books. Here’s another copy of that same book, “Euthanasia: a reference handbook,” by Carolyn Roberts. To access this book, I will just have to click View Online, same as with the articles. I will just need to make sure I’m logged in with my e-id and password, if I am off-campus. Make sure you pay attention to the location and availability of any material before you try it.

If I am not sure whether or not I really want to use the book, I can get more information by clicking on the Details tab. Often, the details will provide a description of the book, or list the table of contents, which can help me decide whether or not to read it.

If you need help finding a book, accessing an article, or using the VCU Libraries Search, just ask a librarian. You can watch the next video, Using VCU Libraries Search, Part 2, to learn about refining your search.

If you need additional research assistance, just ask us:
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