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## Astronomy Research

### In the Library

The COS Library is located in the Learning Resources Center (LRC) which is Building 2 on the Weed campus. Library staff is available during all [open hours](#) to help you with your research in person, by phone or by [email](#). Please feel free to contact us—we are always happy to help and no question is too small!

### Books & Magazines

There are two ways you can look for books in the COS Library.

1. Stop by the Library and browse the shelves! Browsing the shelves can be helpful if you haven't decided on a topic yet. Most of the astronomy books are in the call number range 520-529. Some exceptions might be:
  - biographies of famous astronomers (who may have done research in other areas too);
  - astronomy in our culture (may be in areas such as art, literature, etc.);
  - astronomy in other cultures (books may be located with information about the culture);
  - physics (call numbers in the 530s).

You can also browse through *Astronomy* magazine which is shelved in the Library's "loft" area; magazines can be checked out of the Library.

2. If you want a specific topic, you may want to search the online library catalog instead. To find books in the COS Library you can search the [library catalog](#) in two easy steps:
  1. Go the [Library's home page](#), and
  2. Type in your search.

If you are using one of the suggested possible topics, try using those words or phrases as your search words. For [tips on putting together your search](#), visit the [FAQs](#) page on the Library's web site.

### The Library Online

Many of the Library's research materials are now online rather than on the shelf. To see a full list of the COS Library's databases for online articles, ebooks and streaming video, go the Library's home page and click on the [A-Z List of Databases](#). If you are on-campus, no login is required; if you are off-campus, click on the off-campus link next to the database you want. You will then be asked for your library card barcode number and account password. [Instructions for creating a password](#) are at the top of the [A-Z List of Databases](#) page. Some students have had problems creating passwords this semester—please don't wait until the last minute to do your research and please contact the Library if you are having any problems logging in.

### eBooks

*ebrary* and the *eBook Collection (EBSCOhost)* are large collections of (mostly) non-fiction books that you can read for free online (no special reading device required). You can search for these ebooks in the [catalog](#), which will connect you to the ebook through the **View Now** link. If you don't have much luck finding them in the catalog, try searching the collections directly where you are able to search more powerfully. You can search [ebrary](#) and the [eBook Collection](#) using the same search words you tried in the catalog.

## eBooks (cont.)

**Credo** is a source for online reference books which can provide useful background material on your topic. To find books in [Credo](#), you can type in a search, or click on **Find A Book** to browse for books in the **Science** category. Many students find *Credo's* Topic Pages helpful. Topic Pages gather together info on a specific topic, providing links to *Credo* ebooks, other Library ebooks, and articles in the Library's databases. There are two ways to find Topic Pages:

1. Type in a search; if there is a related topic page, it will be at the top of the search results; or
2. Click on **Find Topic Pages** to browse a list of all Topic Pages.

If you are working on campus, *Credo* has a nice compilation of their astronomy resources:

<http://credoreference.libguides.com/astronomy> (this site does not work well from off campus).

★ More information about [ebrary](#), [EBSCO eBook](#) and [Credo](#) can be found in the [FAQs](#) on the Library's web site.

## Articles

If you are looking for online articles on astronomy topics, try searching one of the following databases using the same search words you tried in the library catalog:

- [Academic Search Complete](#) is a great general database with science coverage including full text astronomy titles such as *Astronomy*, *Sky & Telescope*, and the *Journal of Astrophysics and Astronomy*. It has more academic, scholarly, and peer reviewed articles than *MasterFILE*.
- [MasterFILE Premier](#) is another great general database; it has more articles written for a general audience than *Academic Search*.
- [Newspaper Source Plus](#) only has newspaper articles, so it may be helpful for current events and "newsworthy" topics.
- [Military & Government Collection](#) might be helpful because the U.S. government is involved in space research; how helpful it is will depend on your topic. This database has a mix of materials in it—on your search results screen you may want to limit by **Source Type**.

## Streaming Video

Videos can offer a nice change of pace from text-based research. Most of the Library's streaming videos (videos that you can watch online) are in the [Films on Demand](#) database. You can type in a search (same as in the catalog) or you can browse by clicking on the **Subjects** tab (astronomy falls under **Physical Science**).

## Pictures and Animations

The Library's [Credo](#) database also has images (e.g. the aurora borealis), short animations (e.g. the life of a star) and short historical news clips (e.g. a space walk) that you might want to use in your poster or presentation. You can search for images in *Credo* by clicking on **Gadgets** and then typing in your search in the **Images** box.

All of *Credo's* animations and news clips are in [The Hutchinson Unabridged Encyclopedia with Atlas and Weather Guide](#). To access it, use the **Find a Book** tab and type in "hutchinson." Once you are in the book, click on the **Videos** tab to see a list of all the videos. (Note: if you click on the Images tab, you only see a list of the images in *Hutchinson*—searching for images via the Gadgets screen will allow you to search all *Credo* titles).

These visual resources are available for you to use for class assignments (no copyright issues) but don't forget to credit your sources!