

# Comparing Search Engines for Online Resources

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# Project Overview

- Library has a few search engines users can use for finding resources (journals, articles, etc. online)

- Search engines we're testing:

- UCI ERDB - Electronic Resources Database

<http://www.lib.uci.edu/research/eresources.html>

- UCI ANTPAC - Electronic Resources Database

<http://antpac.lib.uci.edu>

- Cornell Library Database

<http://www.library.cornell.edu>

# ERDB (UCI Libraries)



UCI LIBRARIES  
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UCI LIBRARIES



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ASK A LIBRARIAN!   

SEARCH  in   ?

## Research Tools

- Subject & Course Guides
- Find Online Resources
- Databases to Get You Started
- Library Catalogs
- Create Bibliographies

## Quick Links

- Hours 
- Connect from off-campus
- Course Reserves
- Borrowing
- Interlibrary Loan
- My ANTPAC

## Find Online Resources

All Journals Databases News Reference Statistics Help

Search in All Categories ?

Enter words to search:

Search words as:  
  public resources only 

Browse by Title in All Categories ?

1	2	3	4	A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

public resources only 

### Browse by Subject in All Categories ?

- Arts (Visual & Performing)
- Biological Sciences
- Business, Management, & Economics
- Computing & Physical Sciences
- History
- Law, Political Science, & Government
- Library & Information Science
- Literature & Languages

# ANTPAC (UCI Libraries)



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# UCI LIBRARIES

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my  
ANTPAC

# ANTPAC

ASK A LIBRARIAN

Next-Generation Melvyl Pilot



UCI Faculty, Staff,  
and Students:

Sign in to My  
ANTPAC with your  
UCINetID.

Community Users:

Sign in to My  
ANTPAC with your  
barcode and PIN.

- > Forgot your PIN?
- > Need help with My  
ANTPAC?

### > My ILL Requests

To request renewals  
or check on the status  
of your ILL Requests.

Protect your privacy.  
Close browser when finished!

Keyword **Advanced Keyword** Title Author Course Reserves Subject Call & Other Numbers Online Resources

Sorted By:  Entire Collection  Search

[Keyword Search Tips](#)

[ANTPAC help](#)

Type the keywords you want to find.

**For example:**

- good to great
- Indian cooking

This site works best with Firefox and IE version 7 and above.

• Interlibrary Loan Requests

• New Titles

• Find an Article

# Cornell University Library website



Cornell University  
Library

SEARCH:

Library pages  Cornell

[Home](#)

[About Us](#)

[Hours and Maps](#)

[Help](#)

[My Account](#)

[Ask a Librarian](#)

Search:

Catalog

Articles

Database Names

E-journal Titles

Images

Experts

for

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[Classic Catalog](#)

One of millions of images from our collections. [Click for details.](#)

[Course Help](#)

[Research Help](#)

[Library Services](#)

[Browse all reserves](#)

Select a course:

----- Select a course -----

Course reserves and resources

Enter course name,  
course number, or prof.  
name:

e.g., Shakespeare  
e.g., ENGL 1105  
e.g., Curtis

[Blackboard](#)

[News](#)

**In the Finger Lakes, enjoying a master's vision**

The New York Times wrote a story on golf course designer Robert Trent Jones and his collection of papers, [more](#)

[We Recommend](#)

**Manndible**



"Manndible has great coffee for late-night studying." - Cassandra Gallagher '13, Urban and Regional Studies [more](#)

[Events](#)

[Google Maps](#)

# Usability problems

- For Online Resources search engine, not comprehensive search
- For ANTPAC, no clear option for searching *online* resources specifically; relegated to a tiny dropdown



The screenshot shows the ANTPAC search interface. At the top, the ANTPAC logo is displayed in blue and orange. Below the logo, a privacy notice reads: "Protect your privacy. Close browser when finished!". The search interface features a horizontal tabbed menu with the following tabs: "Keyword", "Advanced Keyword", "Title", "Author", and "Course Reserv". The "Keyword" tab is currently selected. Below the tabs, there is a search input field, a "Sorted By:" dropdown menu, and a larger dropdown menu for search categories. The "Online/Internet Resources" category is selected and highlighted in blue. Other categories in the dropdown include: "Arts Media Center", "Books and E-Books", "Films and Videos", "Grunigen Medical Library", "Journals and Serials", "Law Library", "Special Collections/Archives", and "Entire Collection". Below the search input field, there is a prompt: "Type the keywords you want to find". Underneath this prompt, there is a section titled "For example:" with two bullet points: "• good to great" and "• Indian cooking".

- Limited search options even with online resources tab
- Plan to expose more issues through study

# Method

- Conduct user testing/interviews
- Screen/audio recording with tasks set by customer
- Goal - compare the library search engines with each other as well as with non-library tools to expose usability problems and suggest improvements
- Tasks
  - Find a particular journal using all 3 search engines
  - Find a journal on the topic of stem cells using all 3 search engines
  - Find a specific paper as well as any related paper using any tool the user wants (library search engine, Google, etc.)

# User Tests

- Pre-task questions
  - Previous experience with these search engines?
  - User's preferred method of finding research information?
- Tasks
  - Screen/audio record
  - Have users think out loud
- Post-task questions
  - Favorite/least favorite aspect of each search engine
  - If they had to choose one to use, which?
  - Justify chosen method for task B
  - Solicit suggestions for improvements
- Projected time per subject: ~1hr

# User Tests

- Subjects
  - Focus on researchers, i.e. professors and grad students
  - ~8 subjects total, 4 profs, 4 students
- Recruit through email lists
- Incentive - \$5 Starbucks gift card

# Timeline

- Pilot study w/ two users: Nov. 4
- Find and schedule subjects: Nov. 4
- User testing: Nov. 4 - Nov. 11
- Data analysis and recommendations: Nov. 11 - Dec. 1
- Final project report: Dec. 1 - end of quarter

# Who's Doing What

- Find users - All
- Scheduling - Rahul and Sam
- Pilot study - Colin
- Prep users for tasks - Colin
- Interviews - Rahul and Sam
- Data analysis/final recommendations - All

Questions?