



## ASSET Student Handout

### Research Resources

The following resources have been identified and collected by the ASSET team for you to use when searching for information for your research projects. It's important that you use good search techniques and carefully vet each resource that you find.

#### **Your School Librarian!**

Description: The first place that you should start when trying to find resources is your school librarian! They will be very happy that you have come to them with a complex research question, and will be honored that you have requested their help. Through various online systems, they have access not only to books and articles at other schools, but at colleges and universities around the country and around the world. So if you find a resource (like a journal article or book) while searching online, but your library doesn't have it or doesn't have access to it, your librarian can help you get it, generally in only a few days.

Access: Go to their desk and talk to them; they will be thrilled to see you!

#### **Google Scholar**

Description: Google Scholar is like a google search, but targeted to scientific journal articles. You can type in almost any search term and come up with articles that relate to it. However, just because Google can find it for you doesn't mean that you can access the resource. You can filter your results to show only articles that have a PDF that is accessible instantly, but even if you don't see the PDF, you can still put in an inter-library loan (ILL) request with your school librarian to get the resource. Be cautious when using Google Scholar, as with any online search. It will return items that have your search terms, but it will not guarantee that the resource is reliable or accurate. It remains your job to verify that what you found is useful to you.

Access: <http://scholar.google.com>

#### **Public Library of Science**

Description: The Public Library of Science is a non-profit organization that aims to accelerate the pace of science and discovery by making peer-reviewed articles available for free. They feel that promoting communication between scientists and between scientists and others in society, that they can help improve the world in many ways. These articles are written for practicing scientists, so they often contain jargon and ideas that are very advanced. PLOS breaks down



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## Research Resources - Student Handout

their articles into several journals, listed here: Biology, Medicine, Computational Biology, Currents (new and current research), Genetics, Pathogens, ONE (all disciplines in science and medicine), and Neglected Tropical Diseases. You can search all of these journals from the PLOS main page.

Access: [www.plos.org](http://www.plos.org)

### Worldcat

Description: Worldcat is a collection of library resources from around the world. The idea is that you can search through the collections of many different libraries to find books or articles that you might need. Some of them are eBooks or articles that can be immediately downloaded, but others are resources that are housed at another library. Your school librarian can help you put in an inter-library loan (ILL) request to get the resource that you found. Think of Worldcat as a catalog of libraries all over the world.

Access: [www.worldcat.org](http://www.worldcat.org)

### NovelNY

Description: NovelNY is the New York Online Electronic Library, and it is open to all NYS citizens. To access it, your computer (depending on your internet connection and browser) may geolocate you to New York, in which case all the resources will be available to you without any further steps. Many school libraries will have login-free access, too. If you are not geolocated or not at school, you will have to enter your driver's license number or a library card number. Once you are in, you can browse the databases by subject. The ones that you will find most useful will probably be Academic OneFile and General OneFile. Academic OneFile contains peer-reviewed articles on a range of topics, while General OneFile has periodicals and other news sources.

Access: [www.novelnewyork.org](http://www.novelnewyork.org)

### BioMed Central

Description: BioMed Central is a free source for peer-reviewed journals, over 290 of them, ranging from basic biological research through pathology and to other, specialized topics. One search on the main page will search all the journals, and will yield a large number of hits, simply because their database is so large. Of particular interest is their journal *Cilia*, which directly relates to *Tetrahymena* for obvious reasons.

Access: [www.biomedcentral.com](http://www.biomedcentral.com)



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### PubMed

Description: PubMed is part of the National Center for Biotechnology Information, a government-funded clearinghouse for all sorts of things from complete genomes of organisms to protein function. Researchers who get money from the government are often required to provide free access to their work, and you can search PubMed to find it. Simply type your search in the bar at the top of the page. When you get to the list of your search results, click on “Free Full Text” under the “Text Availability” heading in the menu bar on the left. This will filter your results so that you can view only articles which you can access instantly and free of charge.

Access: [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed)

