Using ISI Web of Science to find Primary Source Journal Articles

http://library.ohio-state.edu/record=e1001369~S7

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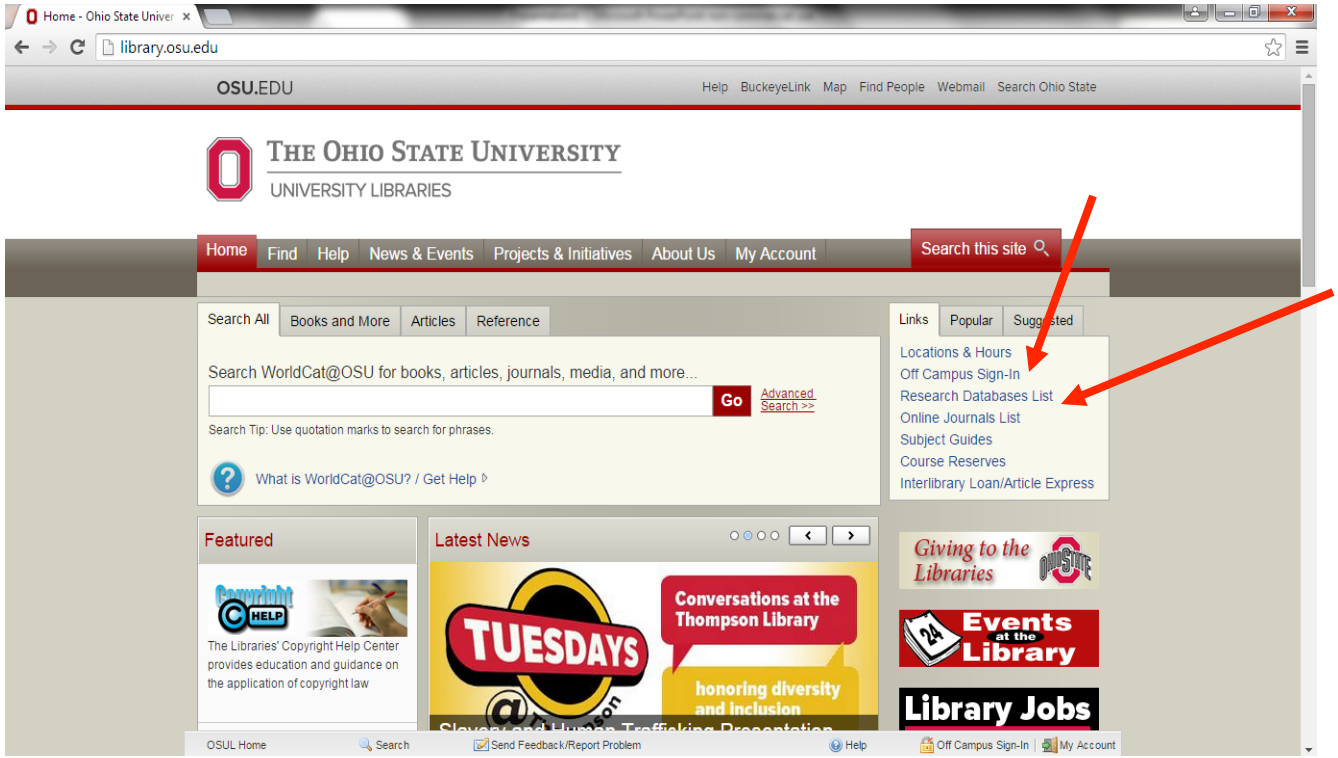
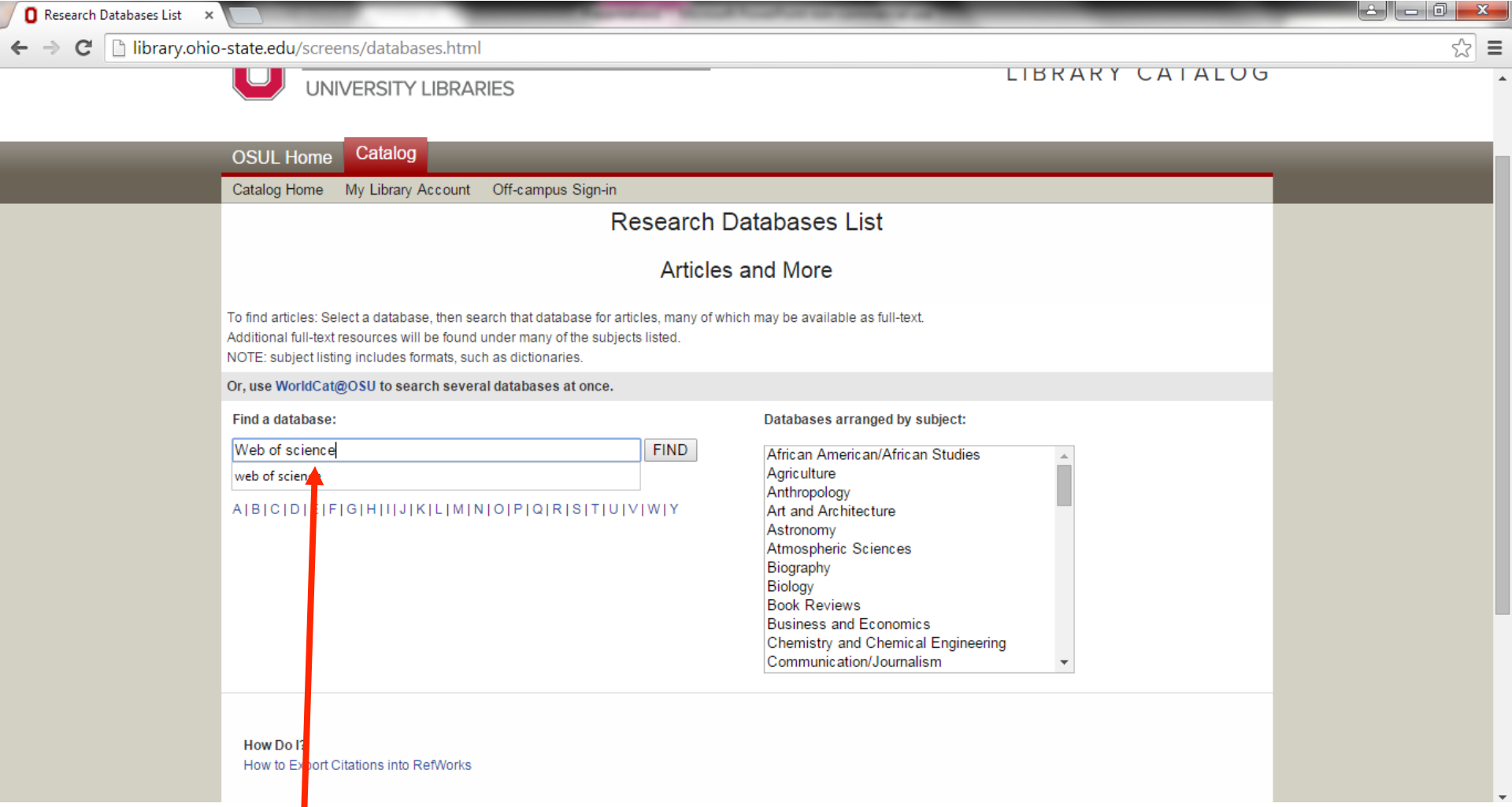
- Remember that you must use at least 10 sources for your Scientific Poster or ScienceBite Article and at least 6 of them must be primary sources, which is a journal article.
- You cannot expect to type your topic into a google search and find 6 primary sources that are from highly respectable sources.
- To start your search, go to:

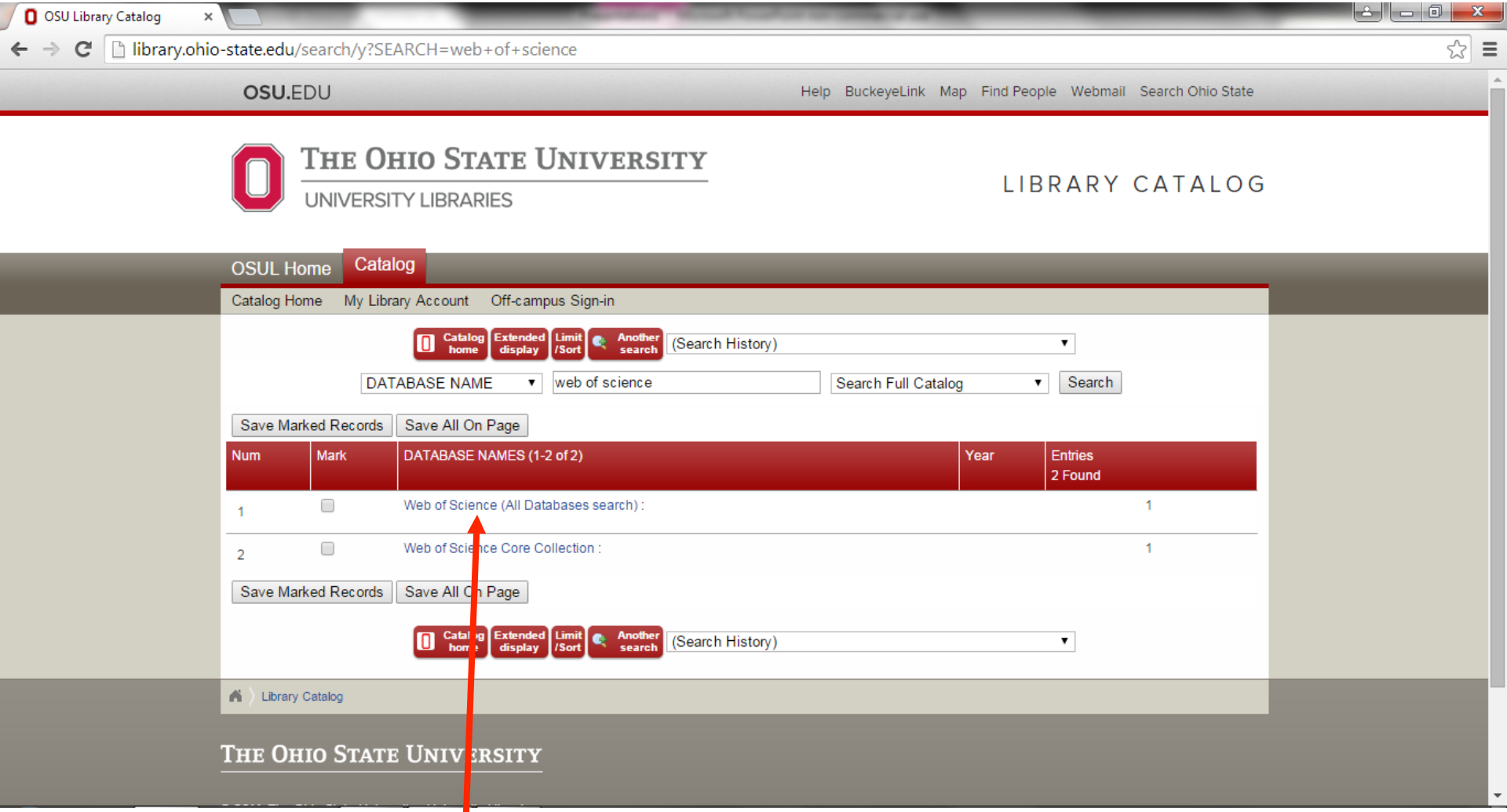
  http://library.osu.edu



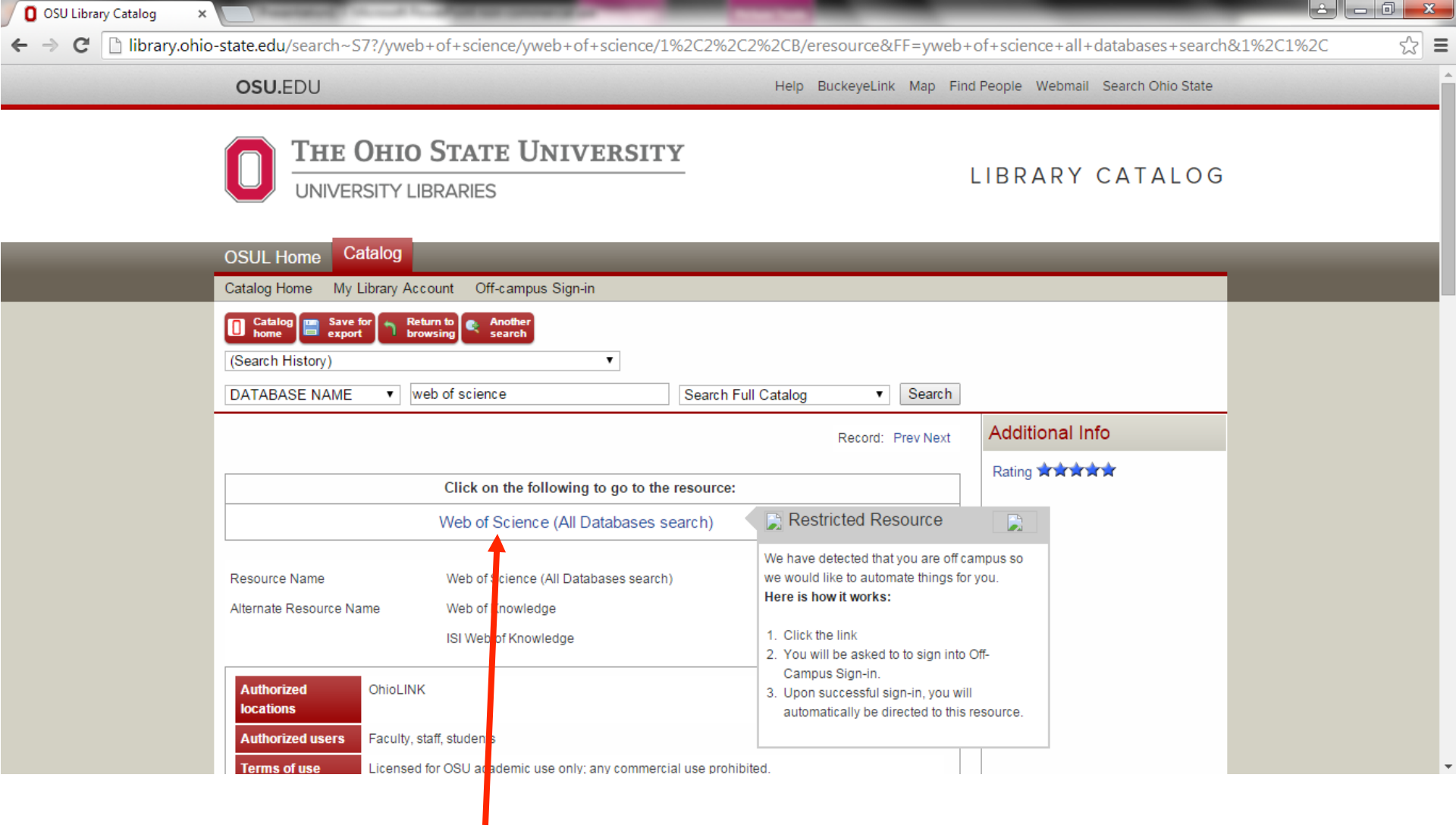
Once on the OSU Library page click “Research Database List” Note that if you are trying to access web of science off campus, you must first click off campus sign-in.



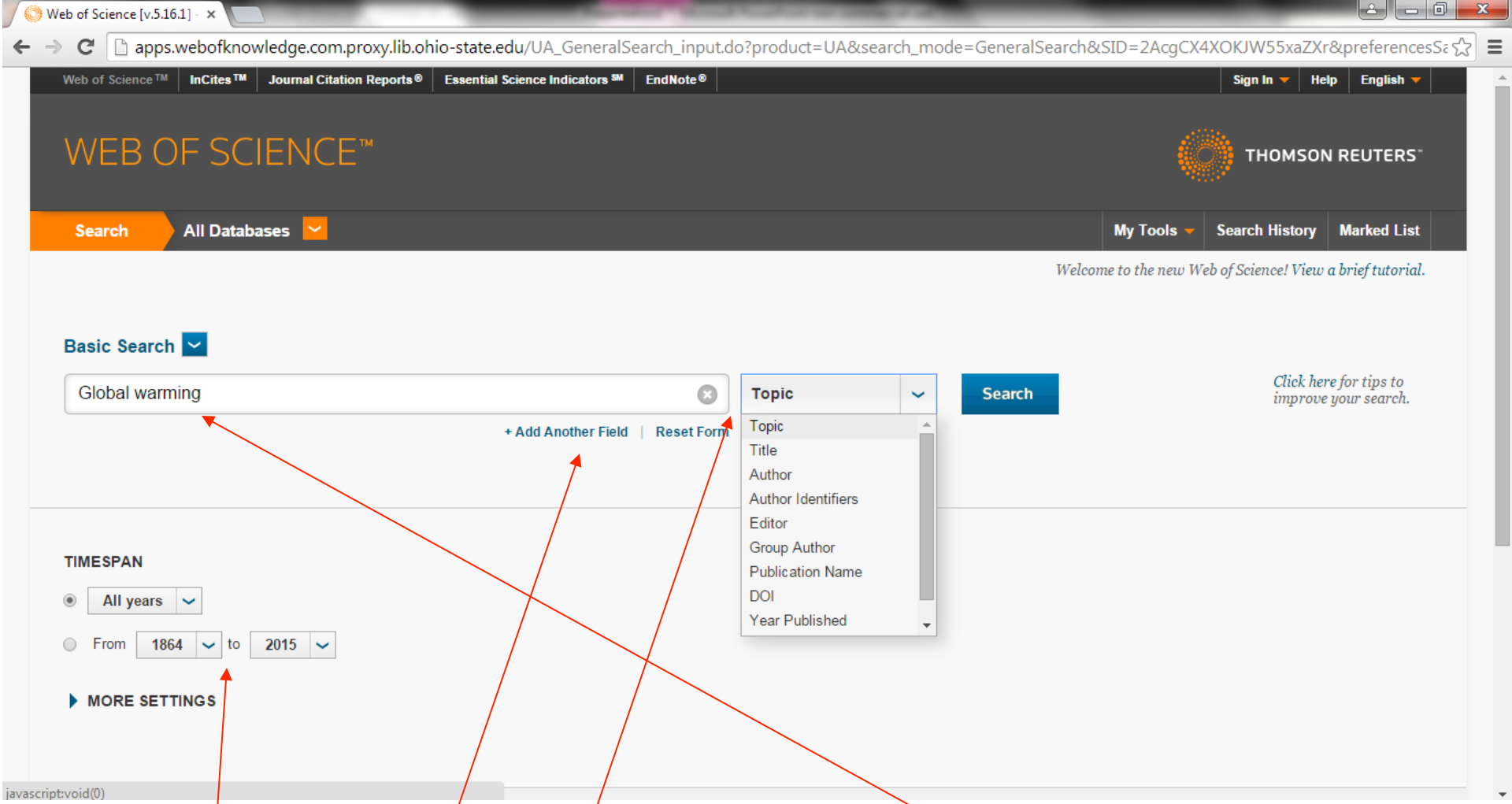
Type “Web of Science” or type “ISI” in the search tab.



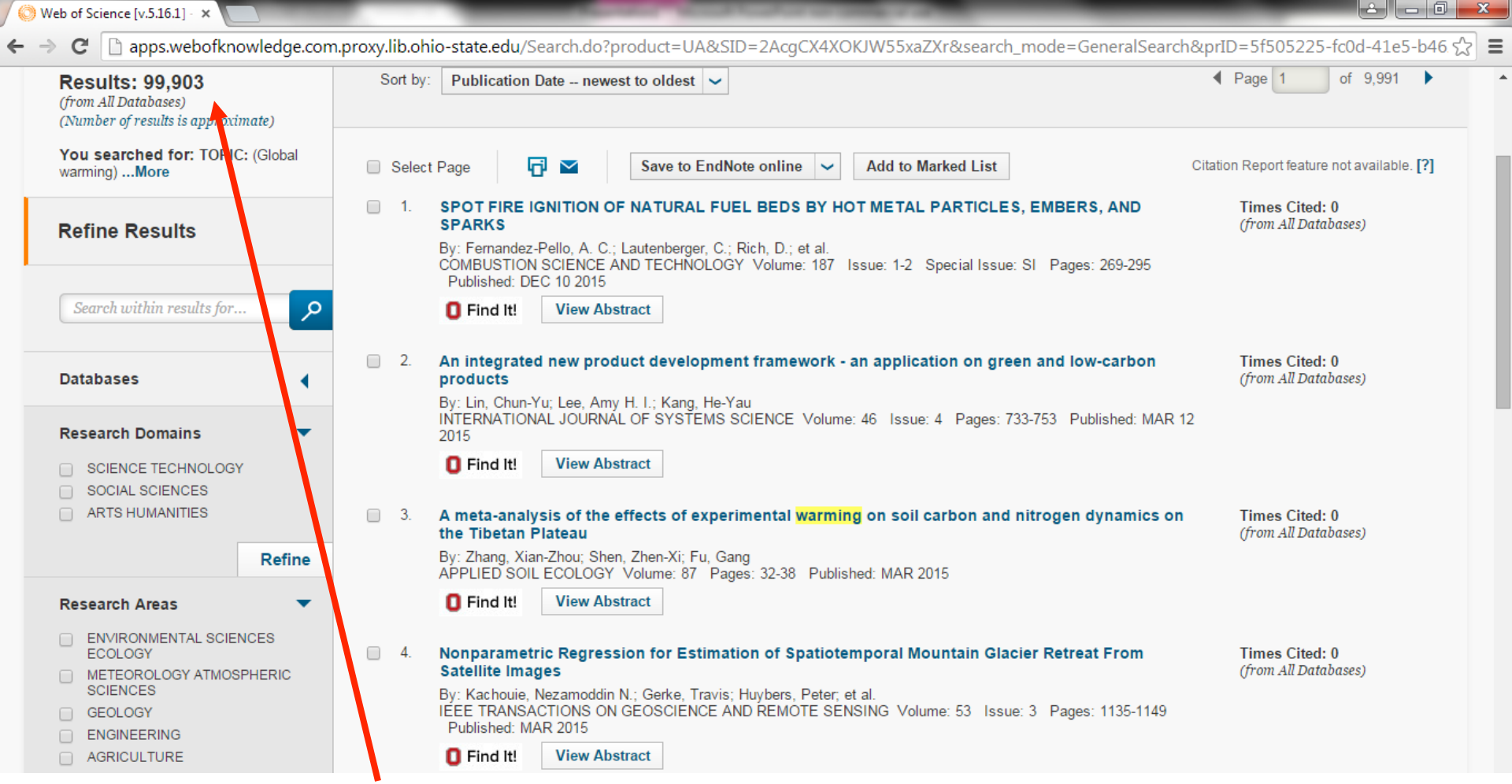
Select the Web of Science



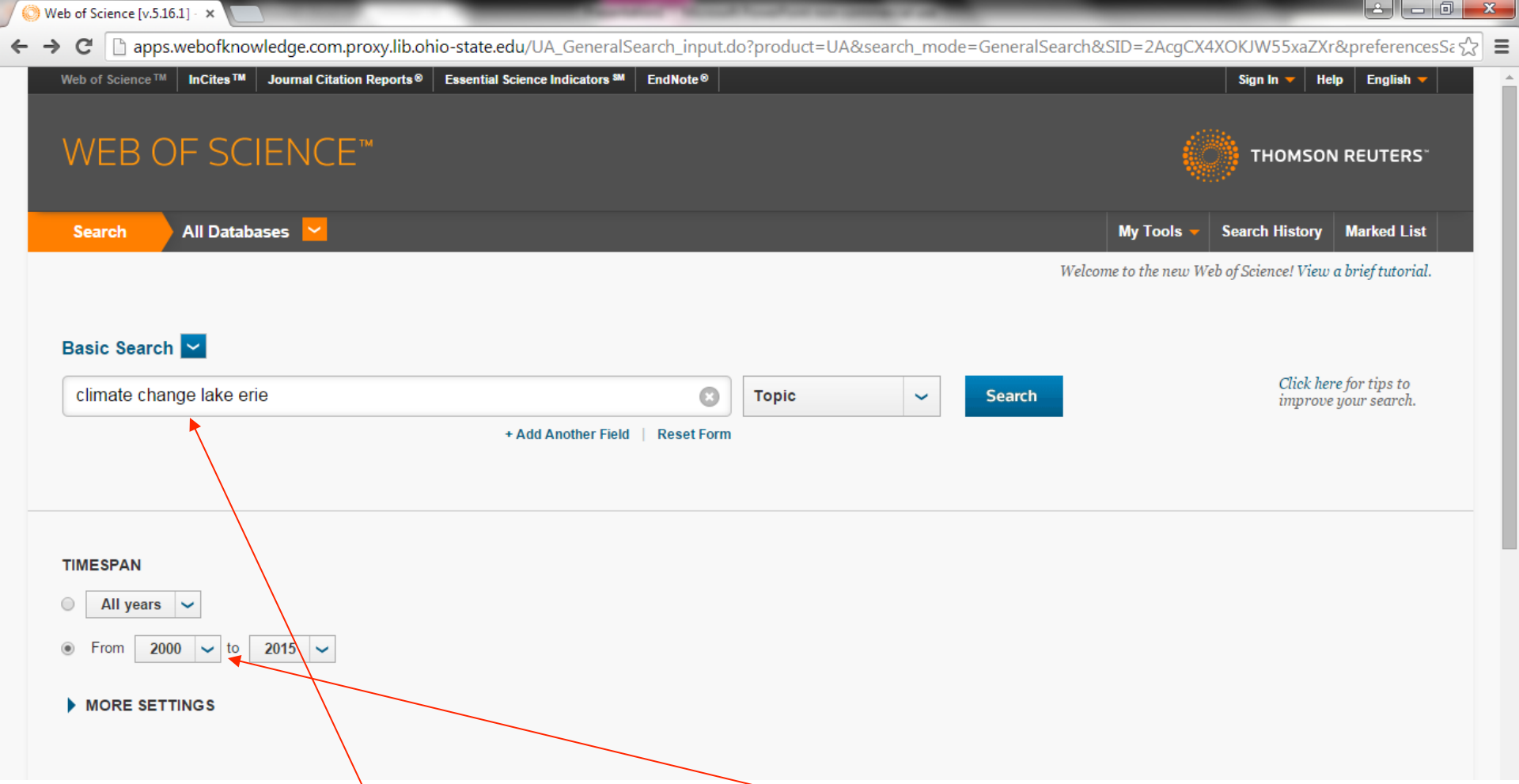
Click Web of Science. Once you click on this link, you may need to type in your OSU login information.



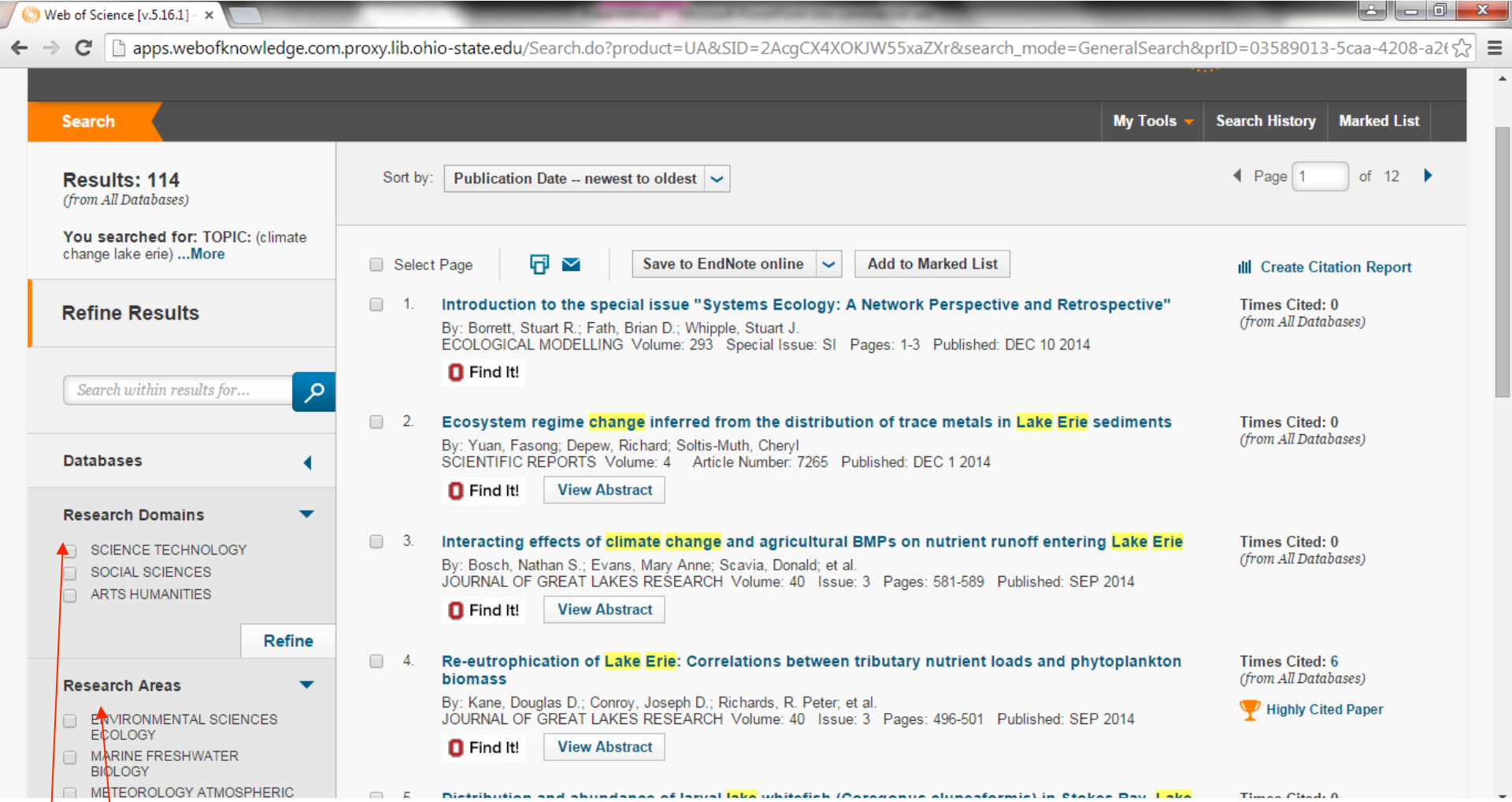
Once on web of science, it is time to begin your search. Note that you can change the years, search by topic, title, author, etc. You can also search for multiple different fields at the same time. When you do your initial search, its ok to start broad but know that you will likely need to narrow your search.



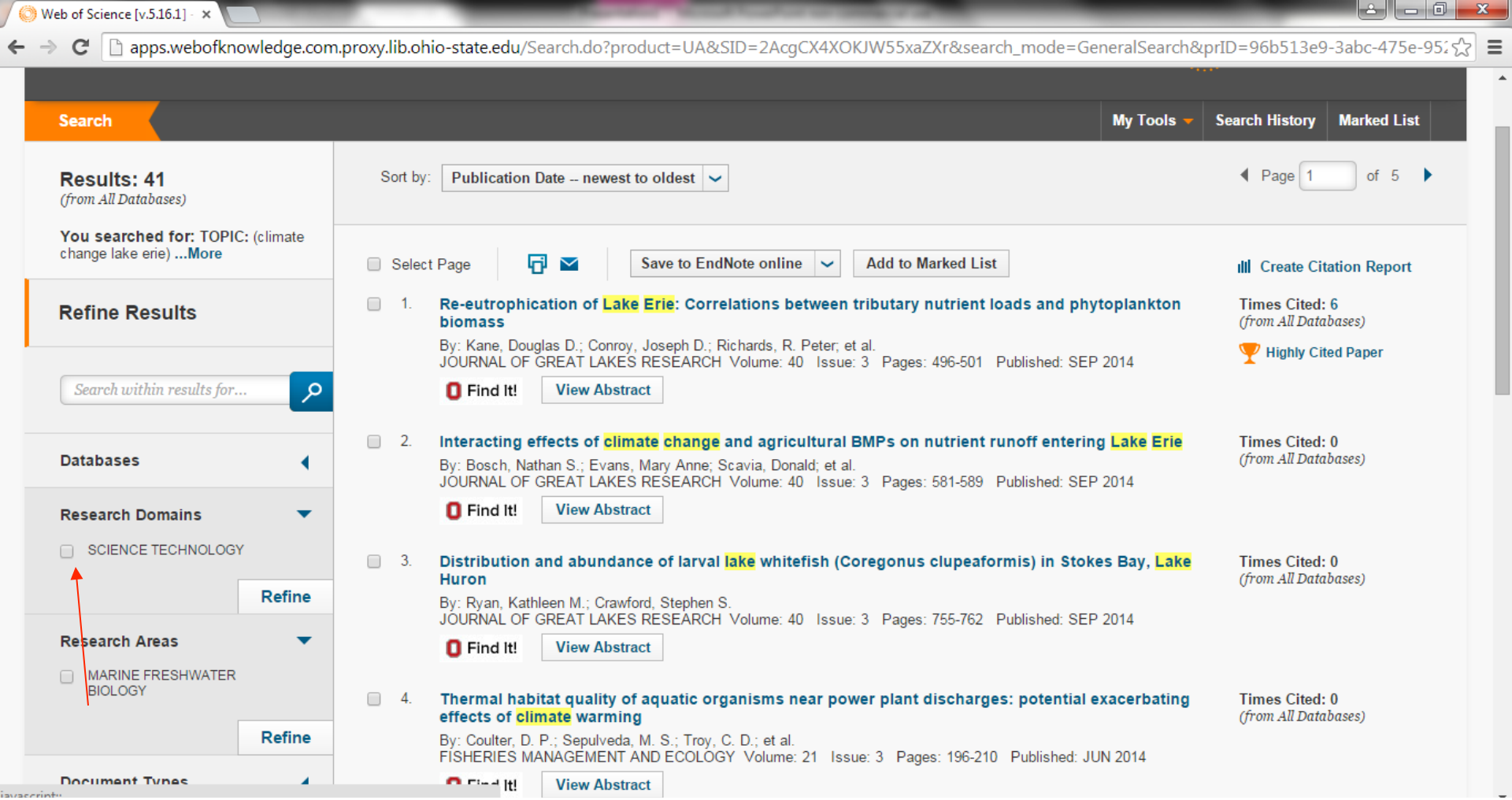
Notice how this search yielded nearly 100,000 results. This is way too many for you to manage. For example, make sure you do NOT pick a broad topic like “global warming” and then select the first 10 sources that show up. As you can see above these four sources have very little in common



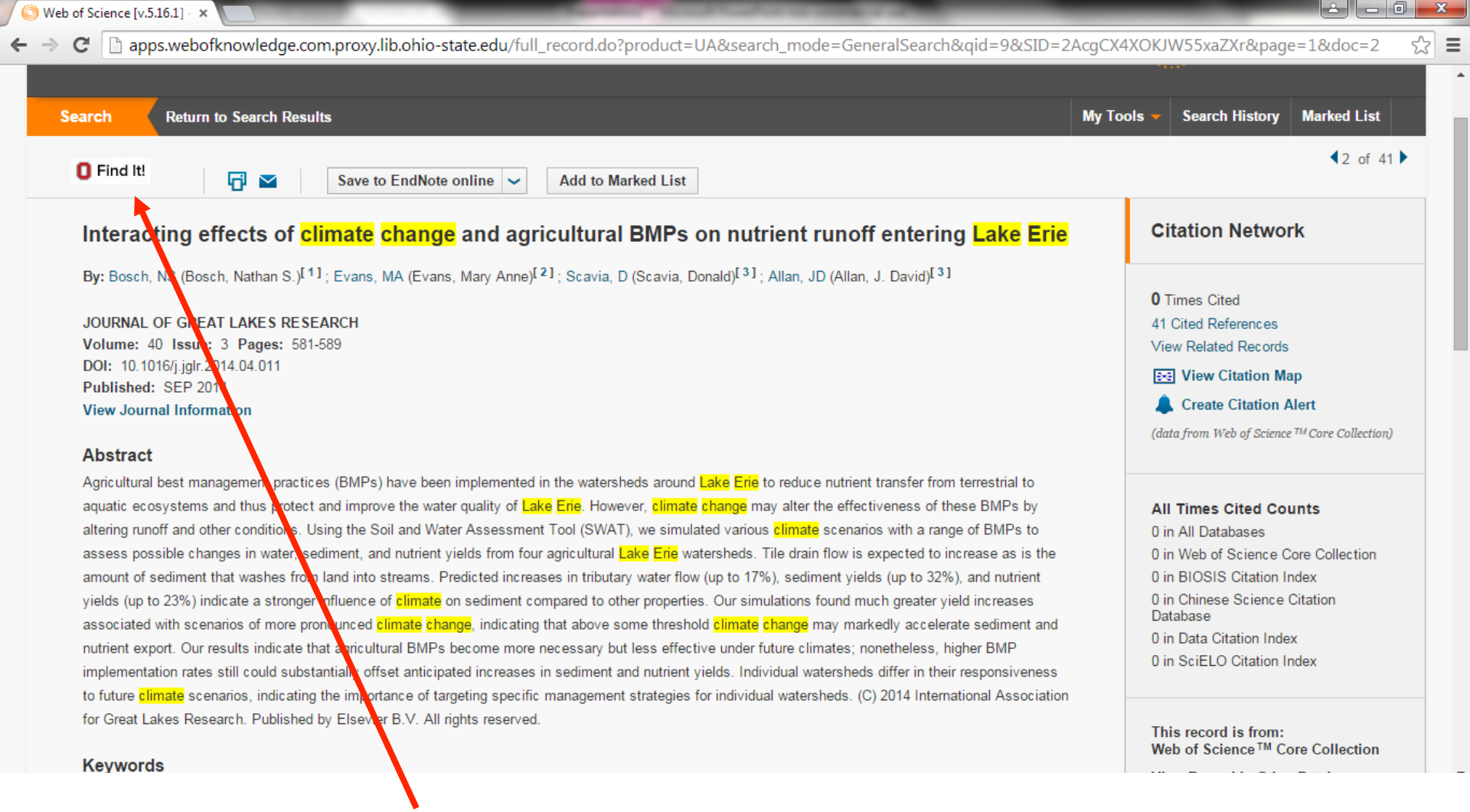
I have gone back to refine my search. Notice that I have chosen a more specific topic: climate change Lake Erie. I have also changed the timespan. Not to say that all old sources are bad but I would strongly advise against using a large number of old sources (greater than 25 years) because recent articles are more appropriate for today's issues.



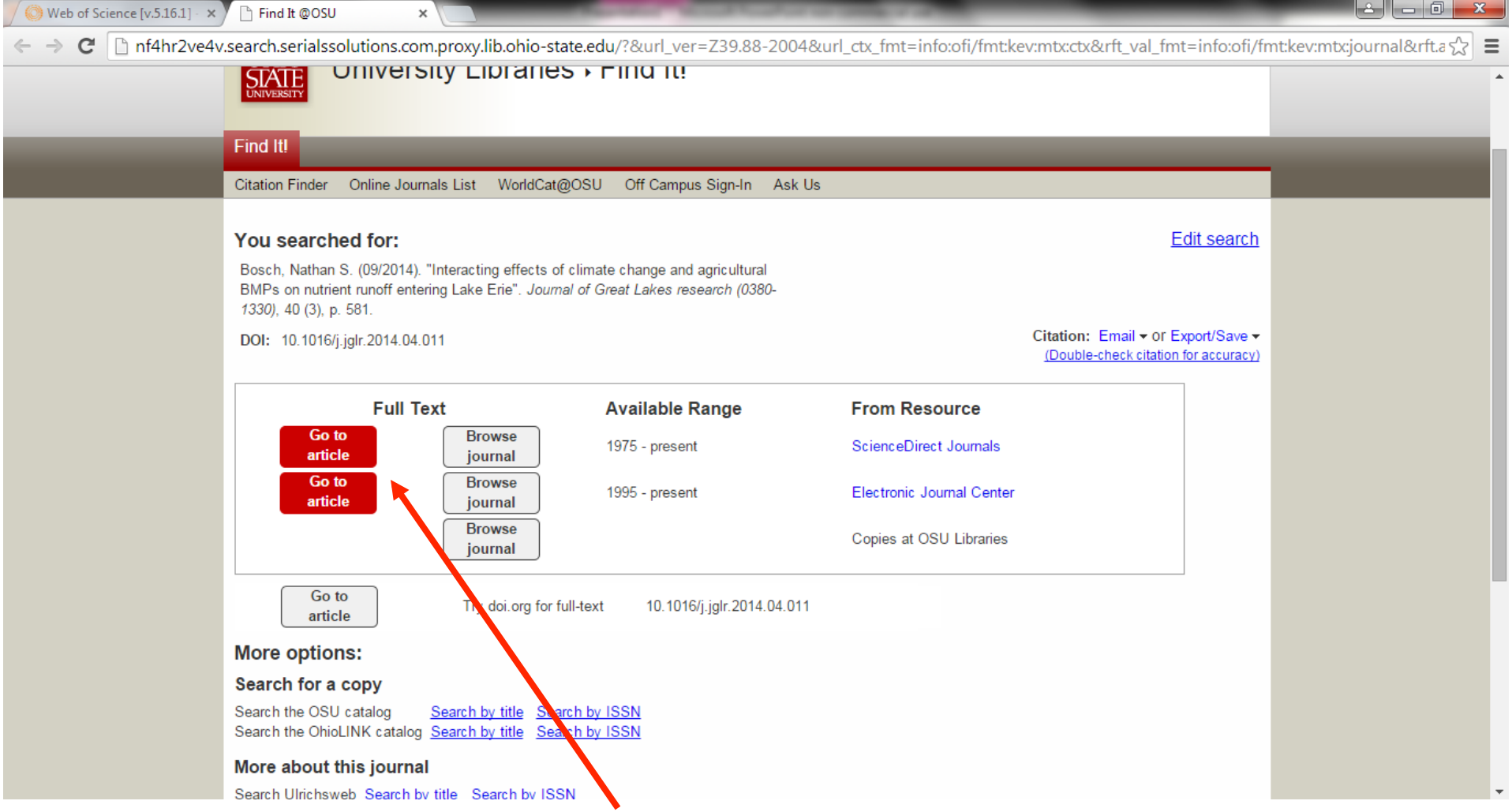
This search took us from 100,000 articles to 114 articles but that still may be too many for you to manage. So to narrow this down more, lets say that we are interested in freshwater biology, maybe something along the lines of how climate change is impacting aquatic life in Lake Erie. We can do this on the left-side of the page by clicking boxes in Research Domains or Research Areas (see red arrows above)



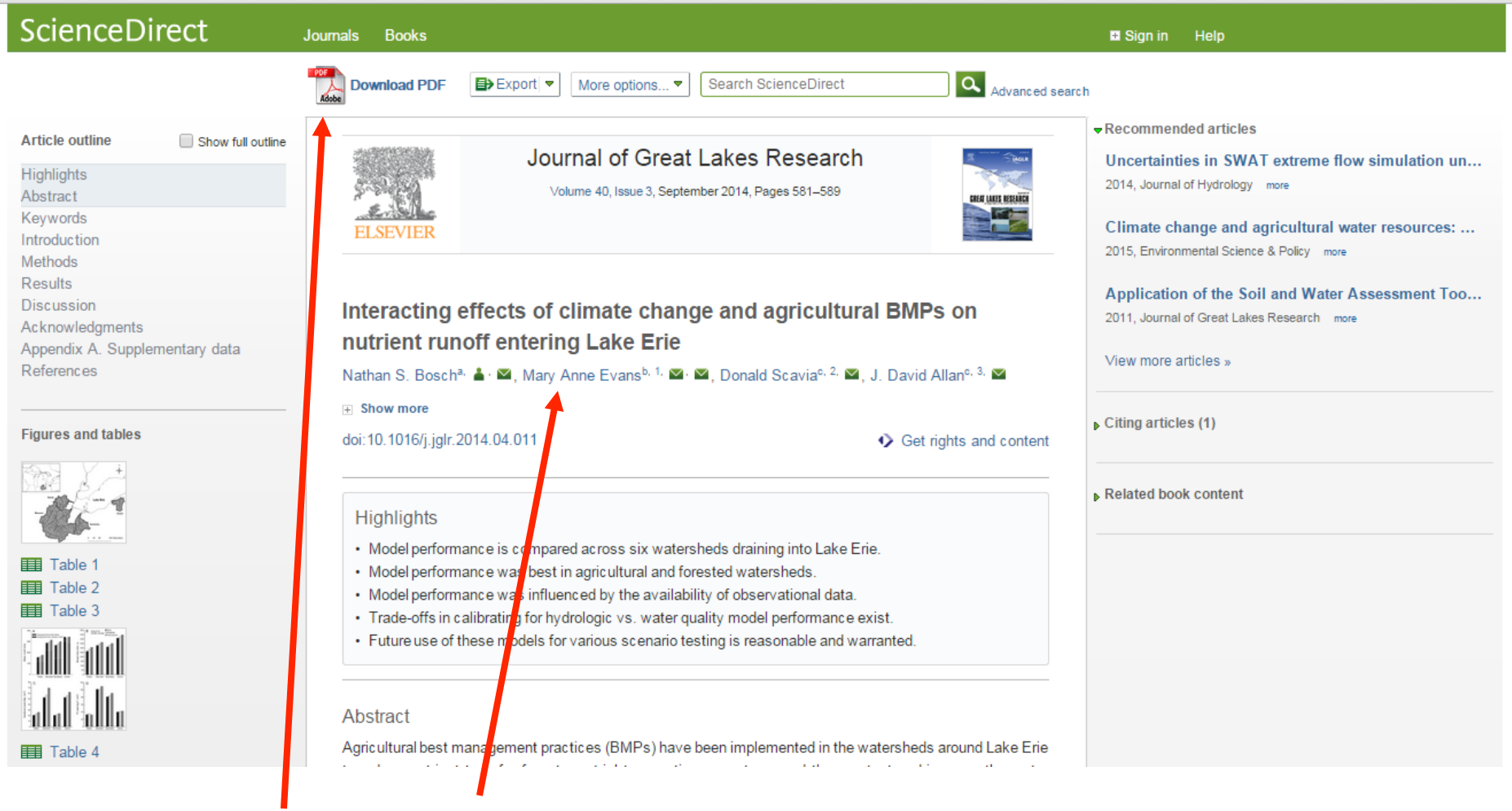
By limiting the search to **Science and Technology** and marine freshwater biology, we have limited our search results to 41 journal articles. This is much more manageable for you to look through each journal title and abstract to determine, which papers might be useful for your topic. You do not have to read every paper here, the abstract should be sufficient to decide whether or not a paper is useful.



For the sake of this demonstration, I decided that the second reference on the previous page looked interesting. Clicking on the article title will take you here where you can read the abstract and decide if the article is interesting to you. If it is interesting, click the “Find it!” button to download the FREE full text article to your computer.



Click Go to article to get to the full text. You can select either red box, both will take you to the article. Both will be FREE.



Once you have the full text you can read the full article. You can also see important bibliographical information and download a PDF of your article to your computer.

Helpful bits of advice

- Put in the effort on your literature search now because it will make writing your first draft much easier and your final product will be much better than waiting until the last minute.
- Make sure your topic isn't too broad, it will make your literature search more difficult. You SHOULD pick a topic that is interesting to you, it will make the project more enjoyable.
- Ask for help now! Office hours are being held now, it you are having trouble with your search come get help now, don't wait until its too late.