

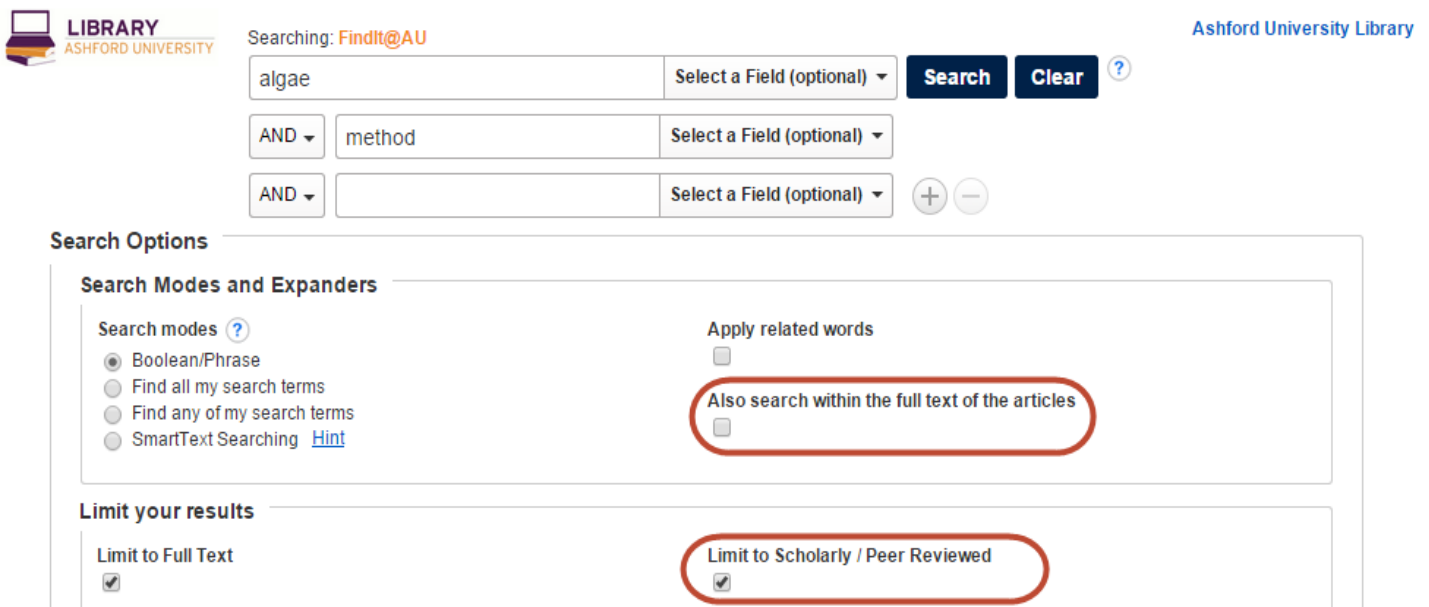
What is an Original Research Study?

Original research studies, sometimes referred to as **primary research studies**, are conducted to expand the knowledge and understanding in a field. They will test a **hypothesis** by **collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data**. These studies might test the hypothesis through **observations, tests, surveys, or experiments**. They will discuss **methods** and **results**.

How to Search for Original Research Studies

1. Click on the **Advanced Search** link directly under the **FindIt@AU** search box on the library homepage.
2. Enter a keyword or a short phrase that describes your main idea or topic into the top box, for example **algae**.
3. In the second search box, try one of the following words. You may need to conduct separate searches using each of these words: **method, clinical trial, study, results, qualitative, quantitative, survey, focus group, case study**. If you want to refine your search even more, enter an additional keyword into the third box.
4. Uncheck **Also search within the full text of the article**. Check **Limit to Scholarly/ Peer Reviewed**. Then click **Search**.

Sample Search Using FindIt@AU - Advanced Search



LIBRARY ASHFORD UNIVERSITY Searching: FindIt@AU Ashford University Library

algae Select a Field (optional) Search Clear ?

AND method Select a Field (optional)

AND Select a Field (optional) + -

Search Options

Search Modes and Expanders

Search modes ?

- Boolean/Phrase
- Find all my search terms
- Find any of my search terms
- SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Apply related words

Also search within the full text of the articles

Limit your results

Limit to Full Text

Limit to Scholarly / Peer Reviewed

Identifying Original Research Studies

Skim the article for sections like:

- Methods
- Materials
- Approach
- Discussion
- Results
- Charts
- Graphs
- References

Ask yourself questions like:

- Is the author the person who conducted the research study?
- Does the article:
 - Answer a question?
 - Explain a process?
 - Deliver Results?