

Accessing and using information that is available electronically:

Please do not confuse electronic journals with print journals that may be read electronically but are also available in print format. An electronic journal is published *only* online. These are increasing in number but most mainstream journals are still published in paper form and then placed online so they can be read both ways.

When you use an OSU computer or log into the University Library System from the outside (e.g., your home) using your OSU login ([name.number@osu.edu](mailto:name.number@osu.edu)) you have access to the content of many journals online. You have electronic access to a wide range of journals because OSU pays for this access (it is very expensive and your fees subsidize this service). The OSU subscription allows you to electronic access the major general science journals such as *Science*, *Nature*, and *Climatic Change* from your home, school or office. These journals are identical to those you would read in the library and nearly all of them are peer-reviewed.

What does peer reviewed mean? This means that prior to publication the article is sent to scientists who are specialists on that particular topic and they evaluate whether or not the material is scientifically sound and suitable for publication. Even with these checks and balances poor science can find its way into the peer reviewed journals.

These instructions will help you access journals electronically.

You can access the OSU Electronic Journal Center directly from any university computer when you are logged in under your OSU user name:

<http://journals.ohiolink.edu/cgi-bin/sciserv.pl?collection=journals>

If you want to access this from home, follow these steps:

On the OSU homepage ([www.osu.edu](http://www.osu.edu)), click on Libraries (on the right)

Drop down option OSU libraries Home

Sign in using your OSU log in (smith.1000) and your password

Click on OSCAR under Library Catalogs and then you are on the search page

To access online journals, click on "Find: Journals (online)"

and type the name of the journal, for example Climatic Change

In the list of available titles click on "Climatic Change (online)"

Finally, clicking on "Connect to website" will bring you to the Table of Contents.

Comments about the use of web pages as sources of information:

You must use web pages cautiously. Web pages are not peer-reviewed. In fact, anyone can create a web page and post anything to it they wish. Thus, you must be very careful consumers of the information you obtain from a web page. This means you should know something about who is providing the information, who decides what materials are posted and who supports (pays for) maintenance of the web page. As the quarter continues I will be adding to the list of web pages (on the class web page) that I consider sound and up to date.