Hi. My name is Jon, I’m a librarian at Gorgas Library. This video will introduce you to Scout, the all-in-one search tool for UA Libraries, and show you how to use its basic search feature.

You can get to Scout from the UA Libraries homepage: lib.ua.edu; it’s available on the menu on the front page and under the research tools tab at the top.

Here’s why we have SCOUT and what it does, in a nutshell: The libraries own millions of items: books, journals, etc., and these are in our catalog. We also provide access to thousands of electronic journals and over 500 databases, which can be accessed here and here. SCOUT searches in these places and more at the same time, and puts the results in one place, making it a convenient way to search.

OK, so let’s perform a basic keyword search and see what we find.

The results are in the middle of the page, and there are panels on either side.

We’ll look at the results list first.

Each item is listed in a short record that include the title at the top, publication information in the middle, and how to access it at the bottom.

So this item is an article from a periodical, in this case, a magazine, and it can be directly downloaded from this link.

This item is a print book that is available for check out at the Music Library.

This one is an article from an academic journal that can be accessed by clicking through the link at the bottom.

Clicking on a title in the short record takes you to a longer record. This contains more information about the item; in many cases it will contain an abstract, or brief summary of the item.

On the right are tools for keeping track of your research.

Here you can find the permalink to this long record, the citation information, and you have various options for exporting, emailing, or printing depending on your preferences.

Let’s go back to the results page.

Scout found a lot of items, and most of the top results are from popular publications like magazines and newspapers.

Let’s narrow down this search using the limiters menu on the left. These options tell Scout more about what you’re looking for.

For example, you can limit results to scholarly articles by clicking here. You can refine it further by adjusting for year of publications.

There are many other ways to refine your search using these options on this menu, so they can be worth exploring, depending on what you’re looking for.
If you wanted to keep a record of these exact search results from these settings, you can use the share function on the results page to copy the permalink, or export it in other ways.

Finally, the right panel will offer some alternative resources for expanding your search, such as holdings in our digital archives, our subject guides, and individual databases that Scout does not interface with.

That's all for now, thanks for watching and I hope you found this helpful. If you have any questions or would like help using UA libraries, contact us or visit ask.lib.ua.edu to Ask-A-Librarian.