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A student's guide to searching the literature using online databases¹ CASEY W. MILLER, DUSTIN BELYEA, MICHELLE CHABOT, University of South Florida, TROY MESSINA, Centenary College of Louisiana — A method is described to empower students to efficiently perform general and specific literature searches using online resources [Miller et al., Am. J. Phys. 77, 1112 (2009)]. The method was tested on multiple groups, including undergraduate and graduate students with varying backgrounds in scientific literature searches. Students involved in this study showed marked improvement in their awareness of how and where to find scientific information. Repeated exposure to literature searching methods appears worthwhile, starting early in the undergraduate career, and even in graduate school orientation.

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