



**PLOS**

**PLOS  
Database  
Guide**

AC Library 2021

# What is PLOS?

- + The Public Library of Science (PLOS) is non-profit, open access publisher that hosts academic research papers in science and medicine.
- + This database is useful for finding resources for research assignments in BIOL, CHEM, and PHYS.

# How Do I Access PLOS?

- + To find the complete list of AC's databases, navigate to the "[Articles and Databases](#)" page on the Library website:



[Public Library of Science](#)

[BIOL, CHEM, PHYS](#)

[Academic journals](#)

# Searching PLOS

- + You can search PLOS 2 different ways:
  - + Research Community
  - + PLOS Journal

The screenshot shows the PLOS website navigation menu. The PLOS logo is in the top left. The navigation bar includes: Publish with PLOS, Research Communities, Open Science, Resources, and About PLOS. A search icon and a close icon are in the top right. Below the navigation bar, there is a promotional text on the left: "When you choose to publish with PLOS, your research makes an impact. Make your work accessible to all, without restrictions, and accelerate scientific discovery with options like preprints and published peer review that make your work more Open." In the center, there is a list of journals: Journals, PLOS Biology, PLOS Computational Biology, PLOS Genetics, PLOS Medicine, PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases, PLOS ONE, and PLOS Pathogens. On the right, there is a "More Content" section with links to PLOS Blogs and PLOS Collections. A white arrow points from the "Research Communities" link in the navigation bar to the "Research Communities" link in the main content area. Another white arrow points from the "Journals" link in the main content area to the "Journals" link in the main content area.

PLOS

Publish with PLOS ▾ Research Communities Open Science ▾ Resources ▾ About PLOS

When you choose to publish with PLOS, your research makes an impact. Make your work accessible to all, without restrictions, and accelerate scientific discovery with options like preprints and published peer review that make your work more Open.

Journals

PLOS Biology

PLOS Computational Biology

PLOS Genetics

PLOS Medicine

PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases

PLOS ONE

PLOS Pathogens

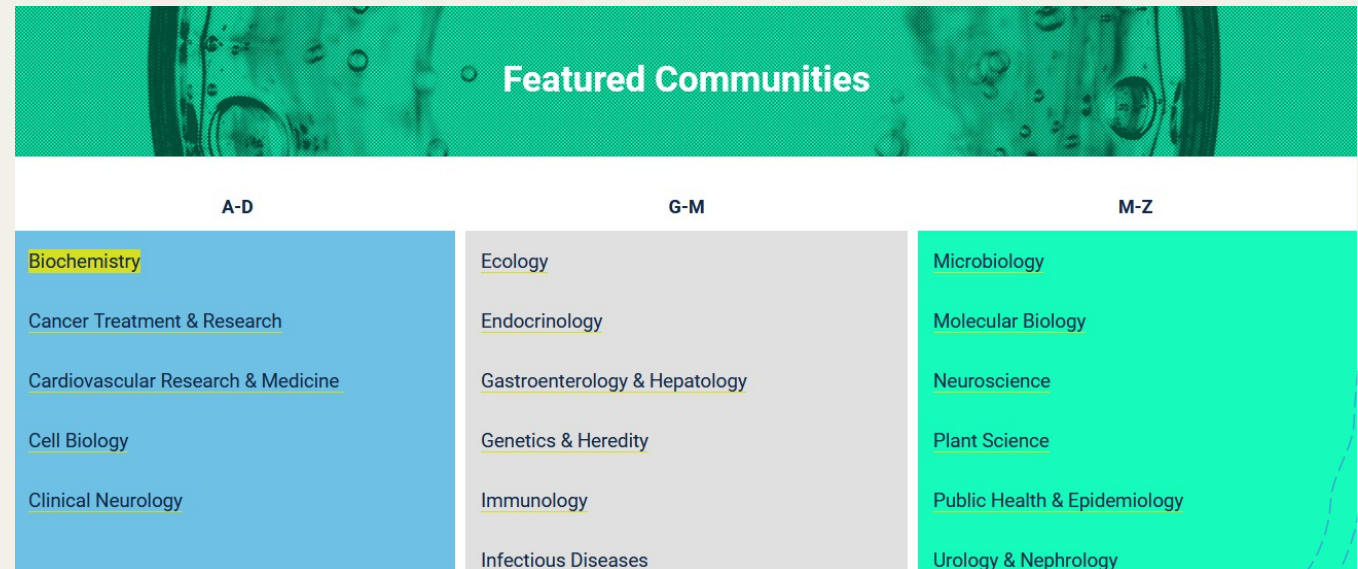
More Content

PLOS Blogs

PLOS Collections

# Research Communities

- + Research Communities provide a collection of resources in a particular field
- + A Research Community can offer highlighted articles in the specific field and search all journals using the topic as a keyword
- + You can also navigate to related collections and content

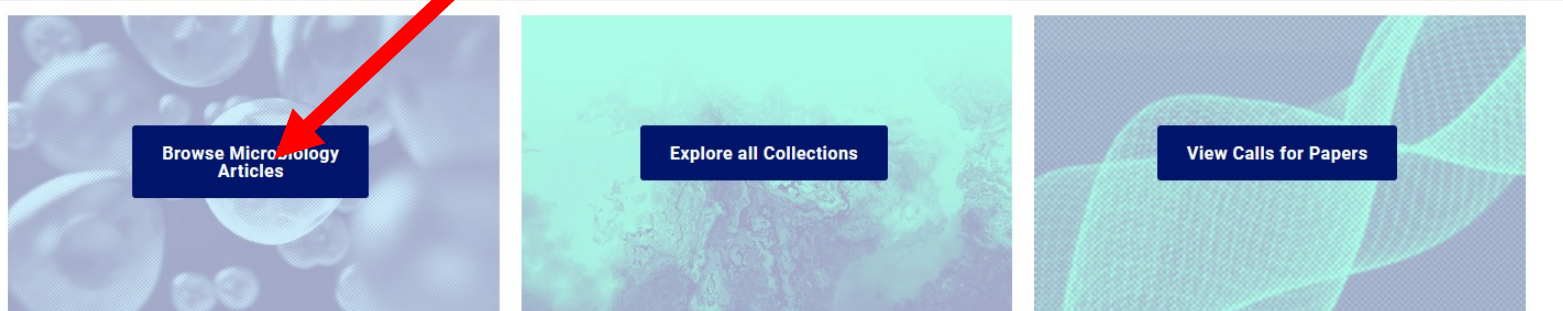


Featured Communities		
A-D	G-M	M-Z
<a href="#">Biochemistry</a>	<a href="#">Ecology</a>	<a href="#">Microbiology</a>
<a href="#">Cancer Treatment &amp; Research</a>	<a href="#">Endocrinology</a>	<a href="#">Molecular Biology</a>
<a href="#">Cardiovascular Research &amp; Medicine</a>	<a href="#">Gastroenterology &amp; Hepatology</a>	<a href="#">Neuroscience</a>
<a href="#">Cell Biology</a>	<a href="#">Genetics &amp; Heredity</a>	<a href="#">Plant Science</a>
<a href="#">Clinical Neurology</a>	<a href="#">Immunology</a>	<a href="#">Public Health &amp; Epidemiology</a>
	<a href="#">Infectious Diseases</a>	<a href="#">Urology &amp; Nephrology</a>



# Research Communities

Search all journals using the community keyword



JOURNALS YOU SHOULD KNOW



Explore related journals

# Research Communities

Explore article highlights for your chosen subject

## OPEN SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS IN PLOS JOURNALS

PLOS GENETICS

**Essentiality of c-di-AMP in *Bacillus subtilis*: Bypassing mutations converge in potassium and glutamate homeostasis**

[Read the peer review...](#)

PLOS PATHOGENS

**Furin cleavage of SARS-CoV-2 Spike promotes but is not essential for infection and cell-cell fusion**

[Read the preprint...](#)



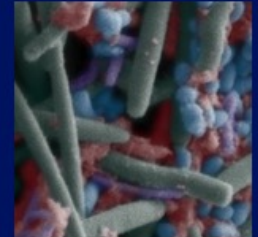
## RELATED CONTENT

COLLECTION

**The Microbiome Across Biological Systems**

Visit our *PLOS ONE* Microbiome and Host Cells collection. Our guest editors have compiled a variety of research articles to contribute to the understanding of the mechanisms through which viruses, bacteriophage, bacteria, fungi, parasites, and microbial toxins interact with host cell and host-derived membranes.

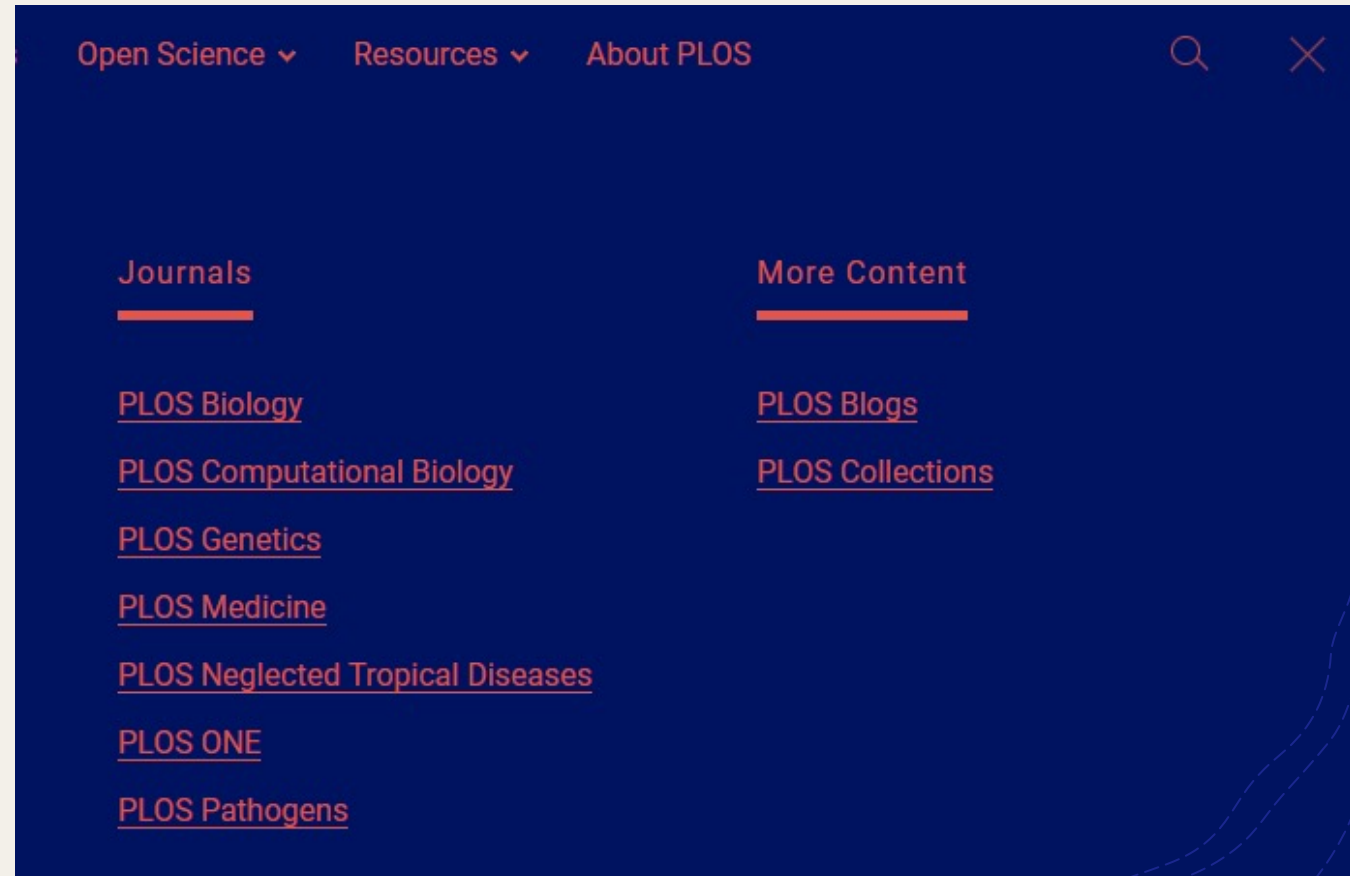
[Read more...](#)



Explore other related collections and content

# PLOS Journals

- + PLOS has 7 different open access journals related to different biological topics
- + You can access each directly, or visit the Research Communities to search more relevant ones



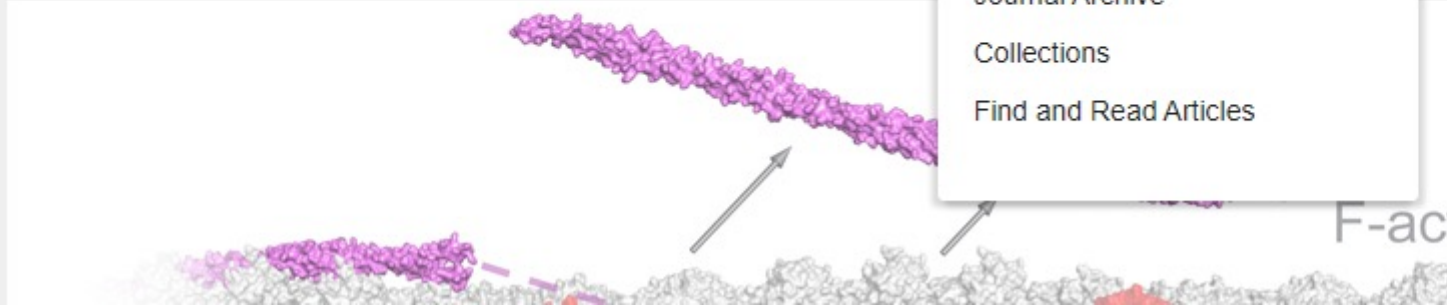


# PLOS Journals

Search by issue, by collection, by subject tags, or create alerts for yourself here

A general search allows you to search more than one journal, by subject area, by article type, and other limiters

## PLOS BIOLOGY



BROWSE

PUBLISH

ABOUT

SEARCH



- Current Issue
- Journal Archive
- Collections
- Find and Read Articles

advanced search

Advanced search allows for multiple keywords, use of Boolean terms, and field selections

# PLOS Journals

The image shows a screenshot of the PLOS Biology website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for BROWSE, PUBLISH, and ABOUT, along with a search bar. A dropdown menu is open under BROWSE, listing Current Issue, Journal Archive, Collections, and Find and Read Articles. On the left, there is a Table of Contents for March 2021, listing various content types like Cover, Editorials, Essays, etc. The main content area features a cover article titled 'Functional innovation promotes diversification of form in the evolution of an ultrafast trap-jaw mechanism in ants'. Below this, there is a preview of another article titled 'emergent function? Booher et al. investigated the evolution of a biomechanical innovation, the latch-spring'. Two callout boxes with orange arrows point to the 'Journal Archive' option in the dropdown menu and the main article preview area.

Explore journals here. Find older issues by exploring archives

Table of Contents  
March 2021

- Cover
- Editorials
- Essays
- Perspectives
- Primer
- Research Articles
- Short Reports
- Methods and Resources
- Meta-Research Article
- Formal Comments

COVER

Functional innovation promotes diversification of form in the evolution of an ultrafast trap-jaw mechanism in ants

PLC

emergent function? [Booher et al.](#) investigated the evolution of a biomechanical innovation, the latch-spring

Explore research articles, reports, essays and other resources here

# PLOS Journals: Basic Search

The screenshot shows the PLOS Biology search interface. At the top, the PLOS BIOLOGY logo is on the left, and an 'advanced search' link is on the right. A search bar contains the word 'Insect' with a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar, it says '869 results for Insect'. To the right of the search bar is an 'Advanced Search' link. Below the search bar, there is a 'Sort By:' dropdown menu currently set to 'Relevance'. A callout box points to this menu with the text 'Sort results by views, citations or dates'. The dropdown menu lists several options: 'Relevance', 'Date, newest first', 'Date, oldest first', 'Most views, last 30 days', 'Most views, all time', and 'Most cited, all time'. To the left of the search results, there is a 'Filters:' section with 'PLOS Biology x' selected. A callout box points to this section with the text 'Filter titles by using limiters like journal, subject, dates, etc.'. Below the filters, there are several journal options with checkboxes: 'PLOS Biology' (checked), 'PLOS ONE (18,166)', 'PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases (2,097)', 'PLOS Genetics (1,334)', 'PLOS Pathogens (1,249)', and 'PLOS Computational Biology (546)'. Below these is a 'Subject Area' section. The search results list three articles: 1. 'Gut Bacteria Cospeciating with Insects' by Liza Gross, published 10 Oct 2006, with 4098 views, 2 citations, 7 saves, and 0 shares. 2. 'Dances as Windows into Insect Perception' by Lars Chittka, published 13 Jul 2004, with 6599 views, 12 citations, 108 saves, and 6 shares. 3. 'How Insect Flight Steering Muscles Work' by Andrew H. Dickinson. A callout box points to the title 'Dances as Windows into Insect Perception' with the text 'Explore titles by clicking links'. At the top right of the results area, there is a 'SEARCH ALERT' button with a bell icon and an RSS icon.

Filter titles by using limiters like journal, subject, dates, etc.

Sort results by views, citations or dates

Explore titles by clicking links

# PLOS Journals: Advanced Search

PLOS BIOLOGY

advanced search

Change the Boolean terms here

You can enter keywords here

Simple Search

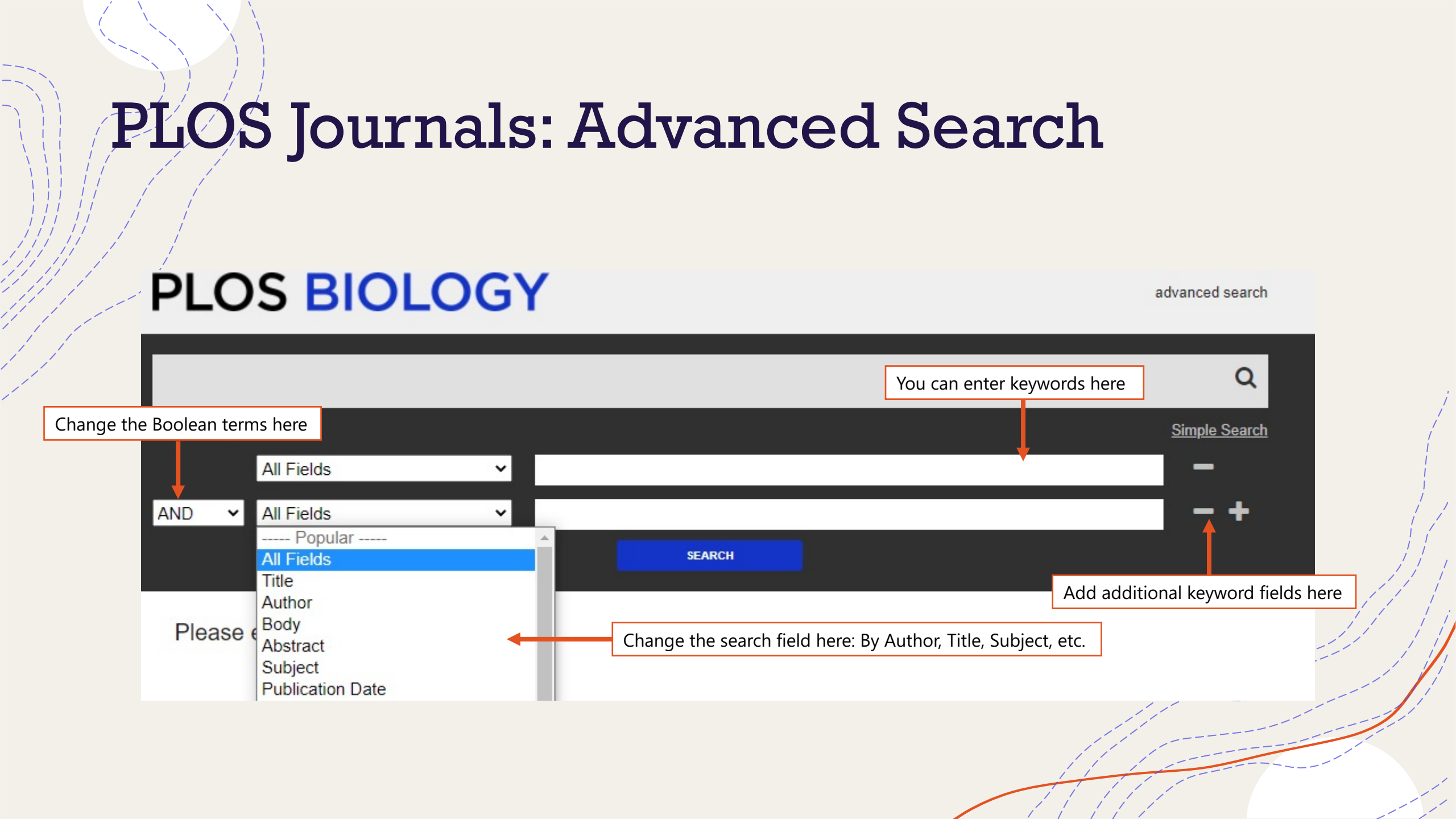
AND

- All Fields
- All Fields
- Popular -----
- All Fields
- Title
- Author
- Body
- Abstract
- Subject
- Publication Date

Change the search field here: By Author, Title, Subject, etc.

Add additional keyword fields here

SEARCH



# Need More Help?

- + Email us at: [library@alexandercollege.ca](mailto:library@alexandercollege.ca)
- + Call us on the student info line at: 604-435-5815
- + Book a [one-on-one appointment](#) with a research expert
- + Chat with a Librarian on our virtual reference service (AskAway)

## Ask a Librarian



Chat



Call



Email



Appt