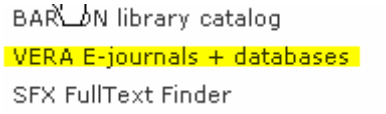
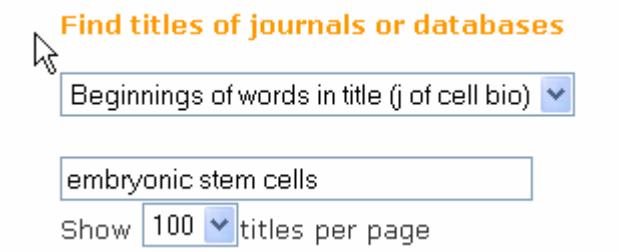
Research log
Literature review on human embryonic stem cell research

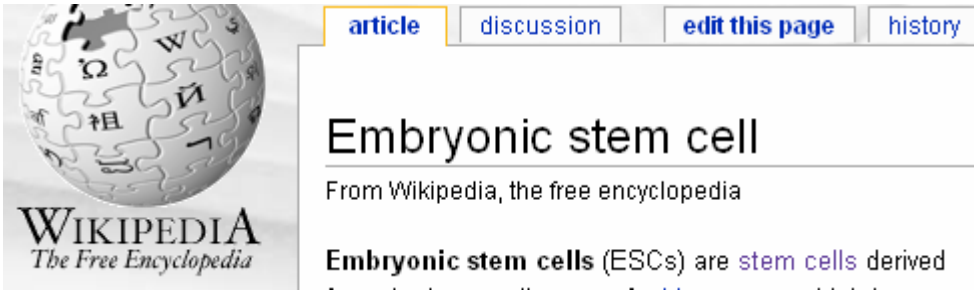
- I know this topic is pretty popular, so I'm confident that I can find a lot of stuff on stem cells.
- I started at the MIT Libraries web page and chose the link for databases and e-journals because I want to find the most recent information on this topic online.




I typed in the search box "embryonic stem cells" and got no results. This only took about 2 minutes. I'm disappointed because I thought I would find a lot here.

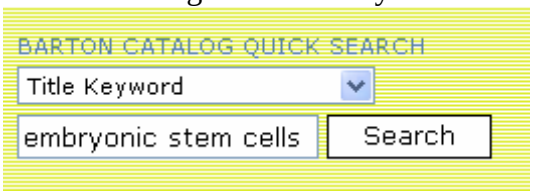



- Next I went to Google since I know there will be a lot of recent information on the web. Again I typed in "embryonic stem cells". This time I got a lot of results – about 13,000,000. I should find some really good sites here and it should be easy to read since it's all online on the web.
- I chose the link for "Embryonic stem cell – Wikipedia." This looks like a really good site because it has an explanation of what stem cells are, then some nice graphics and also a section on research history and developments. I think I'll use this one. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Embryonic_stem_cell_research




- Then I went back to the Google results and chose "What are embryonic stem cells?" This also looks good and has a lot of different sections, covering the difference between embryonic and adult stem cells and potential uses of human stem cells. There are also some interesting graphics here. I think I can learn a lot from this site, so I'll use it. http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/basics/basics3.asp
- Back at the Google results page, I chose "Fact sheet: embryonic stem cell research" which is from the White House - http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2001/08/20010809-1.html. It's short but it has to be good because it's a government site.

- The last result from Google's first page is "Embryonic stem cells isolation". It's from the Washington Post and it's short with a nice graphic, so this is something to look at. http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/cell110698.htm
- The Google search took only about 10 minutes total, between doing the search and looking at the 4 results. I'm feeling pretty good because I'm almost done!
- For my last result, I'll go back to the MIT Libraries page because I must have missed something the first time.
- This time I searched directly from the main page under Barton catalog quick search. I searched again for "embryonic stem cells". I got 6 results.




- I chose the second result because the title is exactly what I need: Human embryonic stem cells. I clicked to display the full record and then clicked the link for the Table of contents. This looks good because it has chapters on a lot of aspects of stem cells, like the biology of them, characteristics, and genetic engineering. I think I'll get this, but I'm not sure how to get it because it only gives me the table of contents and not the whole thing. This is the location: Hayden Library - Stacks | QH588.S83.H86 2005
  I'm not sure where that is and when I click the link, it only gives me a short "Availability/holdings display" and nothing else. I'll ask some friends if they know how to get stuff from the library. If I can't find this, then I'll just go back to Google again since there were a lot of results I didn't look at the first time.
- The library search took about 5 minutes to do the search and look at the results.
- I feel really good about this because it was pretty quick and easy to find 5 documents about stem cell research.