To tweak a popular saying a little: The first casualty of politics is the truth."

Truth, and therefore the authentic information concomitant, is a valuable resource.

Even if this was not an election year, the value of reliable and useful information is paramount - from moving through our daily routines to making crucial decisions as consumers and as citizens.

There are others who often do the research we rely upon because we don't have the time or resources.

Scientific research is a good example.

Debates of global climate change are fed by research. That primary research is then disseminated; that dissemination is most often to scientific community peers through professional journals. Secondary journals and magazines will then summarize that research. After that the popular press picks it up as a news story.

As consumers of information we often receive this information at this final phase.

But there is “translation” going on; in order to reduce the original works to a common language and within a constrained space something has to go. This means that primary sources are heavily edited and that editing reduces or alters the direct, full work.

Nuance, depth and context suffer.

As members -patrons- of the Orcas Island Library we have, of course, access to many of the popular press versions of important research (and other scholarly works), BUT we also have an avenue to see and in many cases retrieve to have the original scholarly works.

How?

Say you read about a study on XX in the New York Times.

First, go to the Orcas Island Library home page and move your cursor over the words READING & RESEARCH on the top banner. A box will appear with other choices. (You may want to explore all of these at your convenience, but right now let’s take a look at how to get to the original, primary sources you want from that New York Times article.)
The easiest way to continue for your purposes is to then click on **EBSCO Databases**. →

This will take you to yet ANOTHER resource page where you have to make a choice. Easiest here is to click on **EBSCO Research Databases**.

(Other resources on this page are amazing! Explore.)

You will then come to a new page – here you have to log in using your library patron number.
Type in your patron number then click Login.

You will come to a new window where you can choose the source for your search … it will be easiest to Select / deselect all then click on Continue.

Getting this done, we can recap…
If you want to locate an original resource:
1) Go to Orcas Library page and hover on READING & RESEARCH at page top;
2) Click on EBSCO Databases when the menu drops down;
3) A new screen comes up – click on EBSCO Research Databases
4) On the next page type in your library patron number and log in;
5) Next page: Click Select / deselect all then click Continue.

Now you are ready to type in the title of the research you need …

This is the place you will finally enter the title or subject for your research article …

You can type in any subject matter, such as “GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE”, but remember that this search is not like Google or Wikipedia. The resources here are scholarly works and the archive available is elite in that the Orcas Island Library has subscribed for you so that you can have access to original and primary works of research and creativity.
Three types of studies or works appear in your EBSCO search: 1) a review of a research work; 2) a summary of a work by the author or authors; 3) the complete text of the research.

Here are titles for each of these:

1) A REVIEW: “Megadroughts predicted for U.S.”
2) A SUMMARY: “Megadrought and Megadeath in 16th Century Mexico”
3) TEXT OF STUDY: “Stochastically Generated North American Megadroughts”.

If we enter the title of #3 into the search bar and hit Search …

we get this result …

The accurate title was found.
Click through option to read on line.
Authors & description indicated.
Alternate subject search categories.
Images associated with study.
The PDF of the study.
(If you open the PDF you can save it to a computer or electronic reader.)
Using the exact title of the research work the results are listed.

(Merely searching the words “megadrought” and “megadeath” resulted in the same outcome.)

The article we want is the first to come up.

That same article comes up in Spanish.

Using the search term “megadrought” only will result in a broader and larger cache.

These will include original scholarly research studies, summaries of such works and reviews of those studies in a more narrative form.

There will be plenty of choices, depending on your need.

Some results can only be read online, others can be downloaded and in some cases you may only

The take-away from this is the confidence and curiosity to explore the READING & RESEARCH link on the menu banner at the top of the Orcas Island Library home page. Explore the various resource available to you right there on your computer, thanks to the commitment of our library to make a world of original research accessible to you immediately. And so, now you know how to do it.

Thank you, Orcas Island Library. Brad Brown.