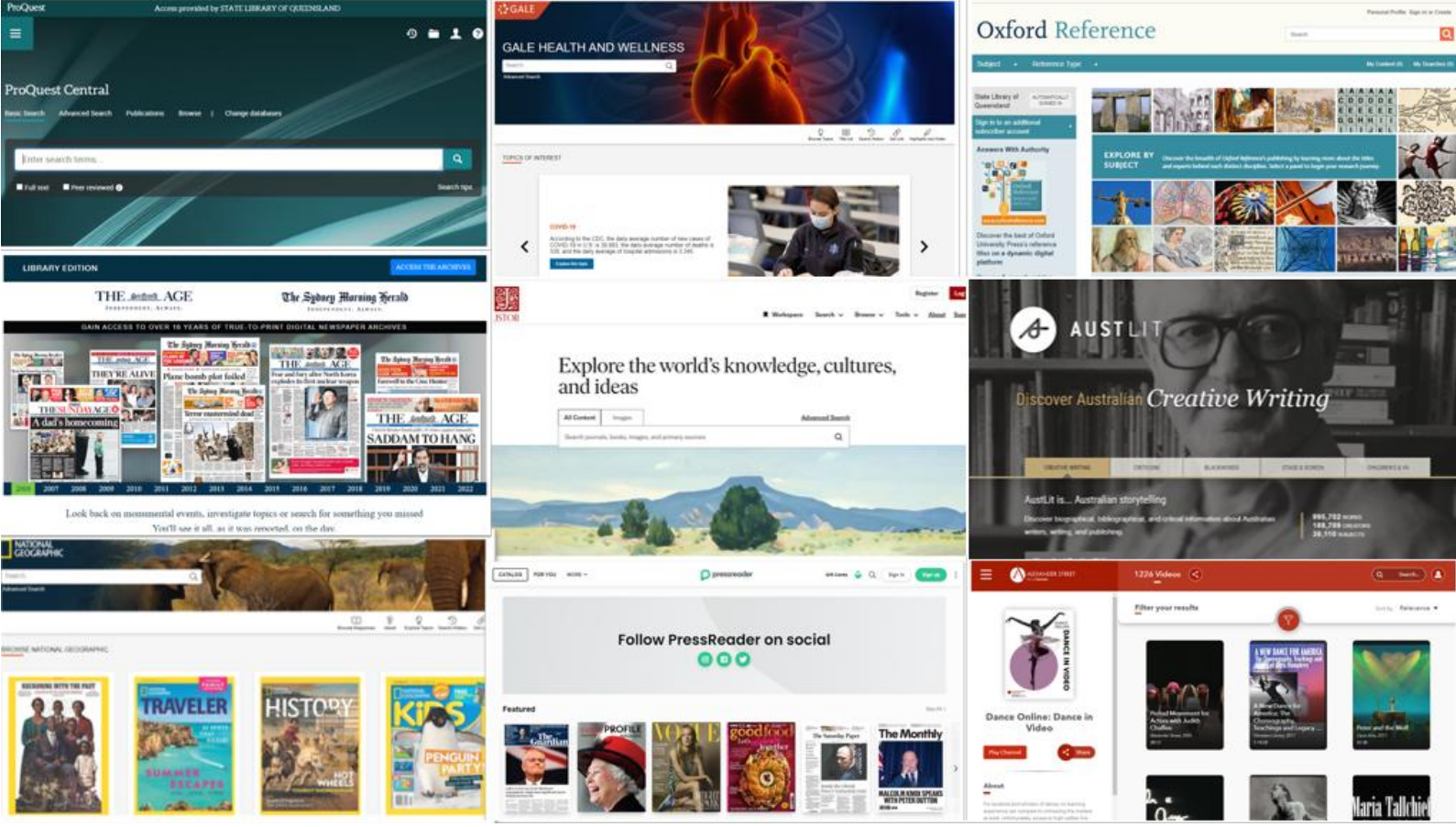

STATE LIBRARY
QUEENSLAND

Year 8

Earth Sciences

Unit 1 – Plate Tectonics

Unit 2 – The Rock Cycle.

Cover: Selection of databases available through State Library, 2023.

Date prepared: 04 March 2026

Copyright information for teachers

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Please note, due to licensing arrangements, State Library's subscription databases and eBooks are for private research and study purposes only. They may not be used as teaching resources in classroom environments in schools or other educational institutions and students must not be required to access specific databases or eBooks as part of the curriculum.

Teachers can advise students on State Library's resources and encourage their use to help with their studies and research. Students are encouraged to access State Library's resources at school, but not during class time.

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Overview

As Queensland's leading research library, State Library is a great place to find information to complete your research-based assessments.

State Library's One Search catalogue is the gateway to an extensive suite of national and international journals, databases, eBooks, encyclopedias, newspaper archives, and collections of thousands of historical images, letters, artworks, diaries, and artefacts to interrogate as sources.

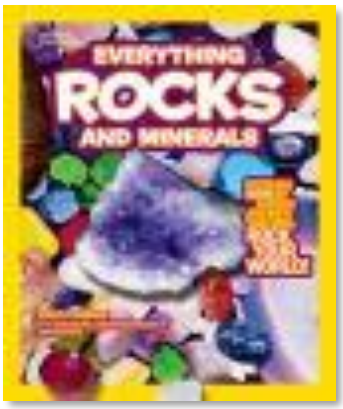
Before you get started

Become a member of State Library of Queensland (it's free!).

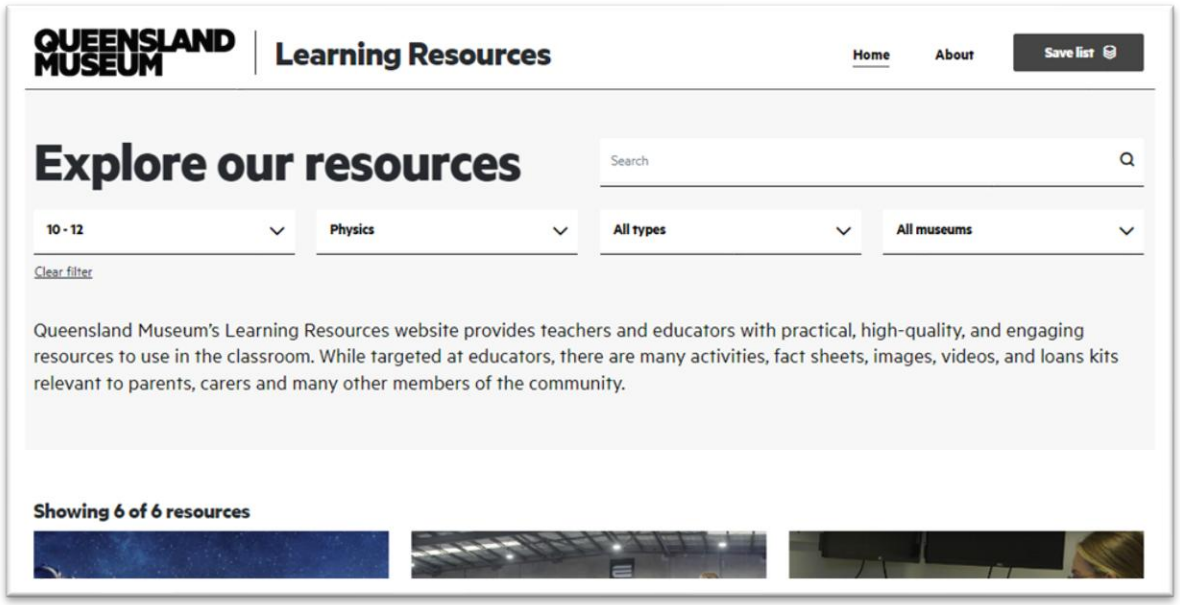
Once you have joined State Library, log in to your account in One Search so you can use the links in this research guide to access the featured collection items.

You can search our OneSearch catalogue or begin exploring by clicking on some of the featured items contained in this research guide.

E-Books



Queensland Museum provide Learning Resources website students with many activities, fact sheets, images, and videos.



The Australian Institute Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies is a powerful tool for First Nations reading and research. Their online database and research projects can provide incredible insight into science from the First Nations perspective.

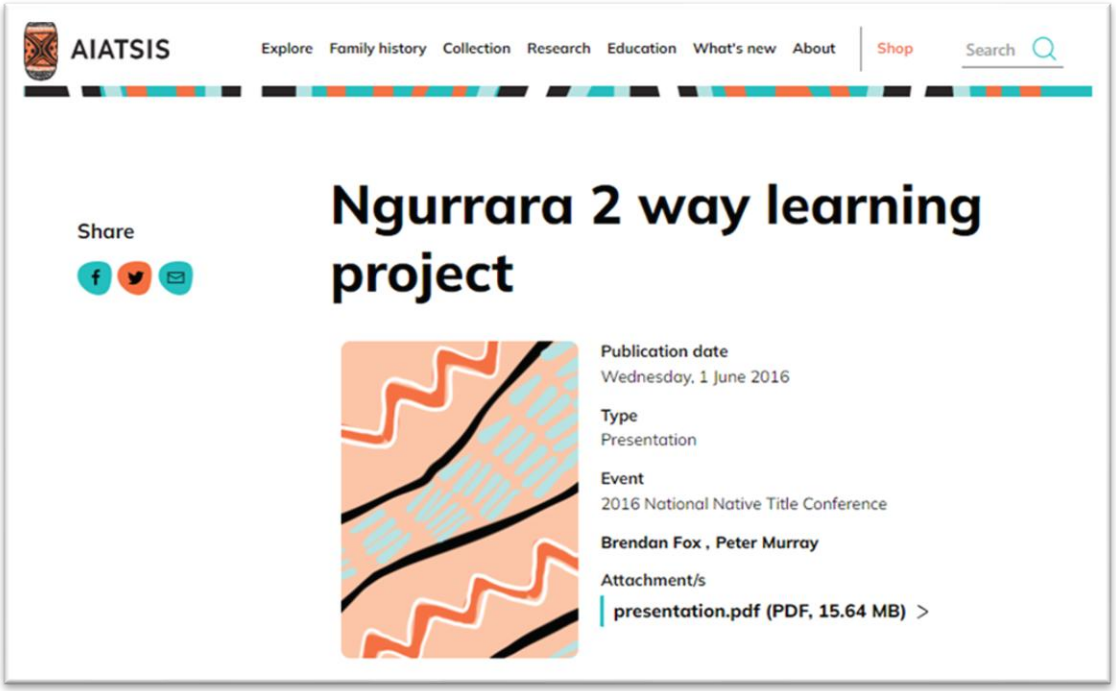
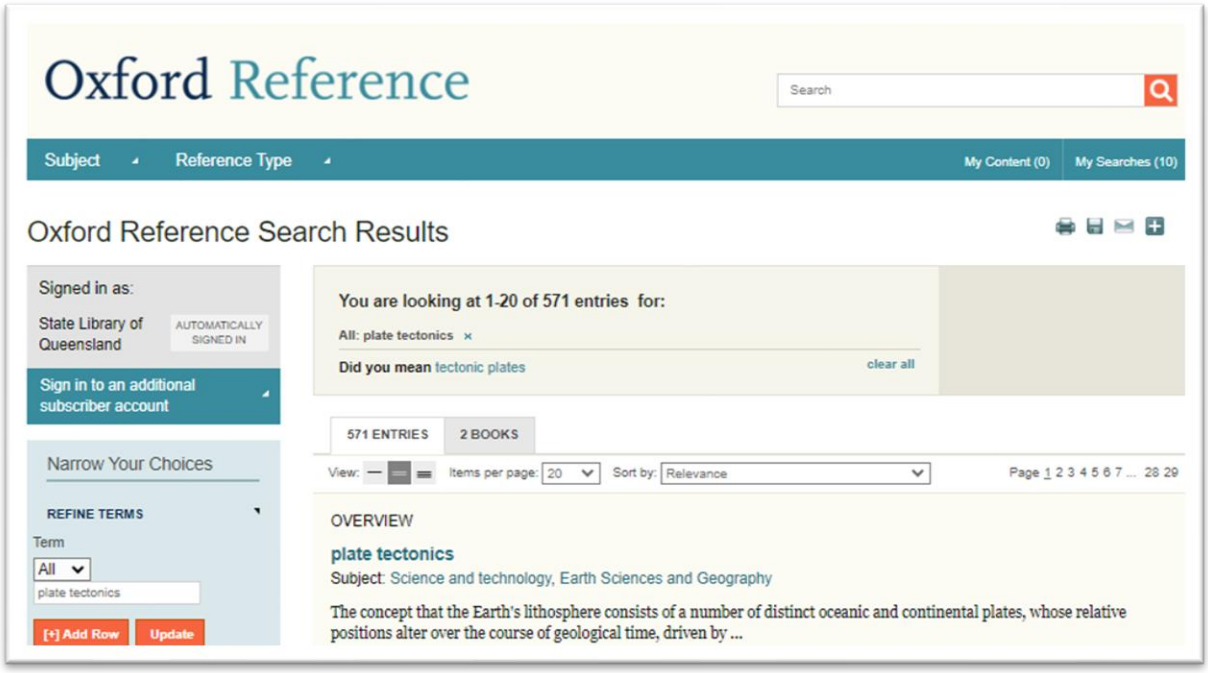


Plate Tectonics

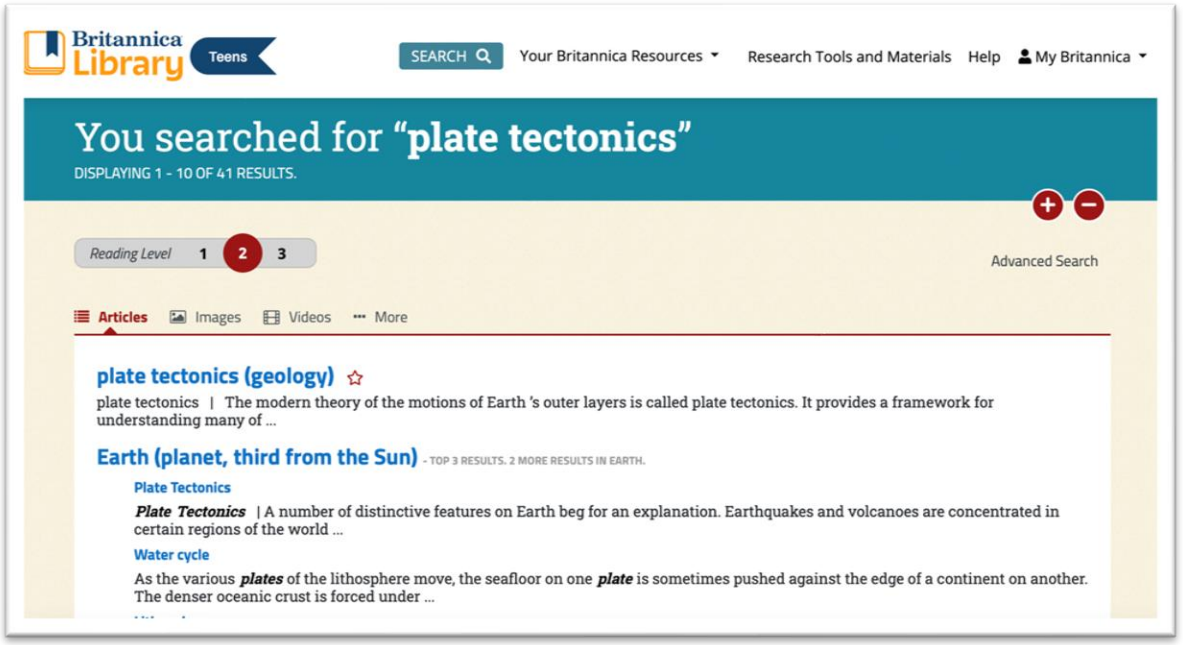
Investigate tectonic activity including the formation of geological features at divergent, convergent and transform plate boundaries and describe the scientific evidence for the theory of plate tectonics

- Examining patterns of earthquake and volcanic activity over time and proposing explanations.
- Evaluating the impact of tectonic events on human populations and examining engineering solutions designed to reduce the impact.
- Modelling interactions at plate boundaries.
- Investigating the relative significance of different forces involved in tectonic plate movement including slab pull, ridge push and convection.
- Relating the extreme age and stability of a large part of the australian continent to its plate tectonic history.
- Constructing a timeline of evidence to show the development of the theory of plate tectonics.
- Exploring how geologist and oceanographic cartographer marie tharp's topographic maps of the atlantic ocean floor provided support for the acceptance of the theory of plate tectonics.
- Researching first nations australians' cultural accounts that provide evidence of earthquakes and volcanoes.

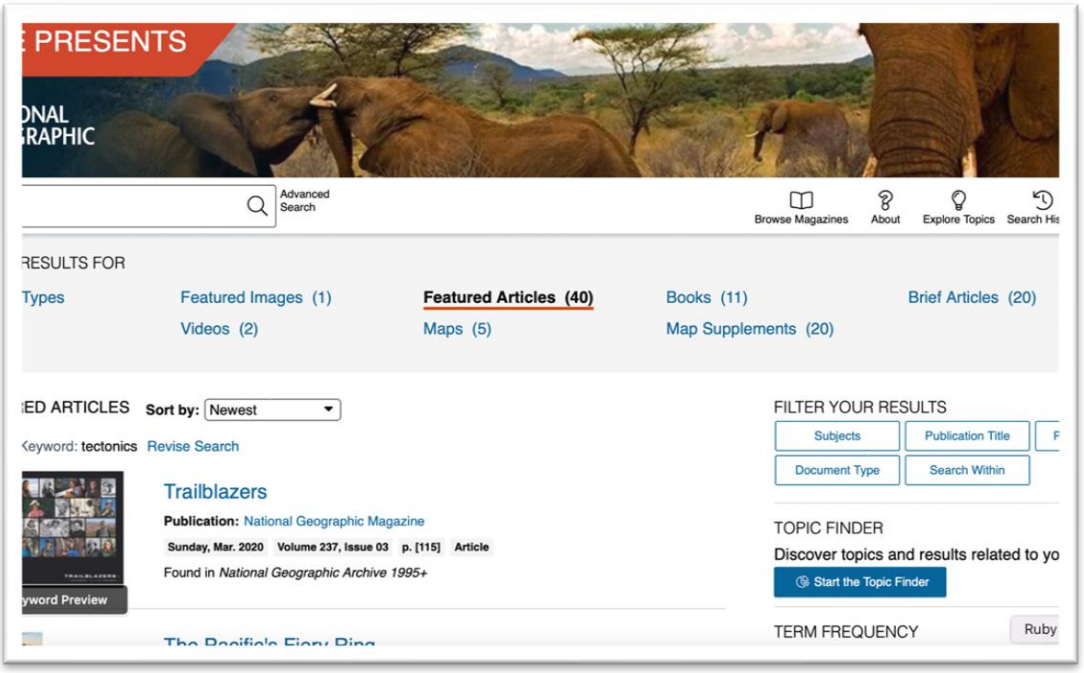
Oxford Reference spans 25 different subject areas, bringing together 2 million digitised entries across Oxford University Press's dictionaries, companions, and encyclopedias.



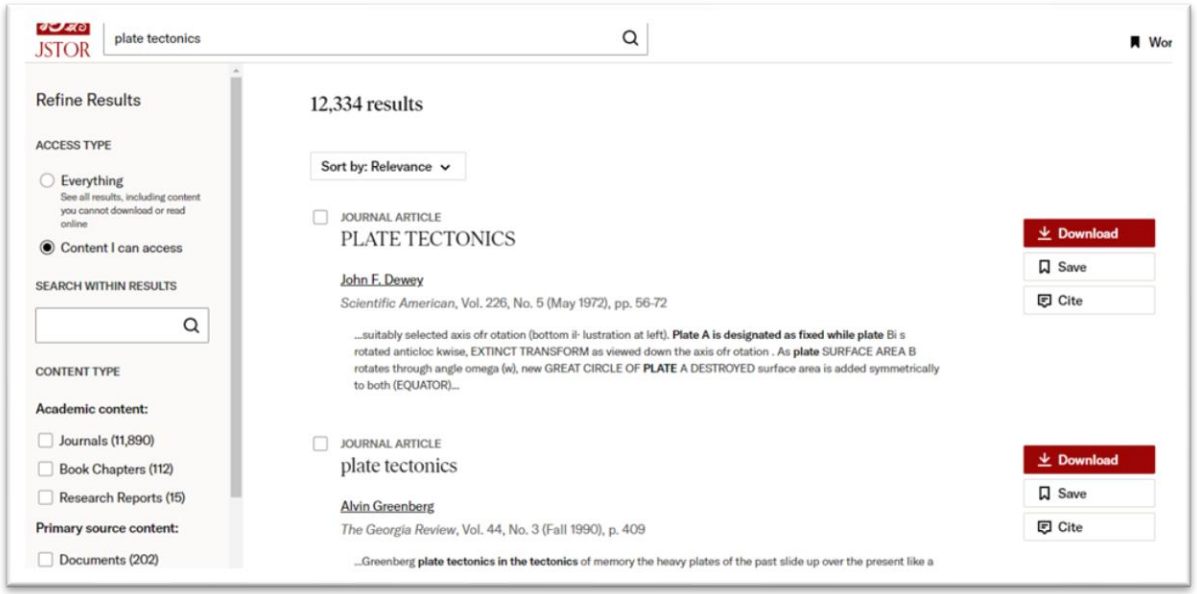
The Britannica Library has articles, images and more, with a selection of resources especially for teenagers.



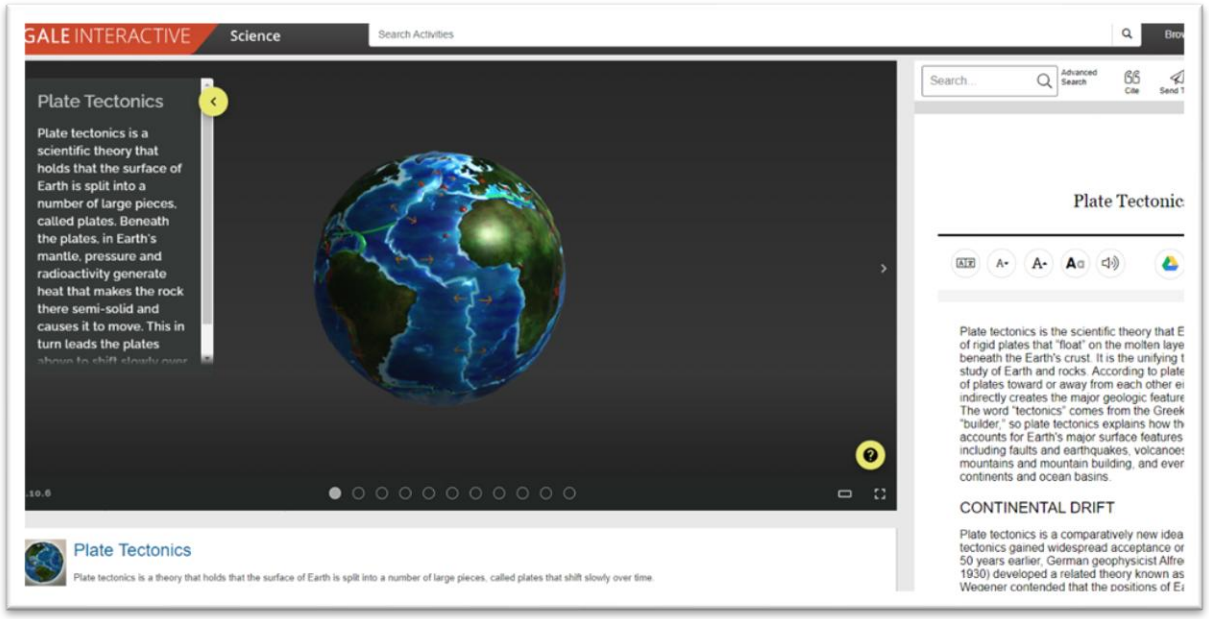
National Geographic Virtual Library is a powerful tool for research offering access to over 100+ years of magazines and hundreds of books, maps, videos, and images.



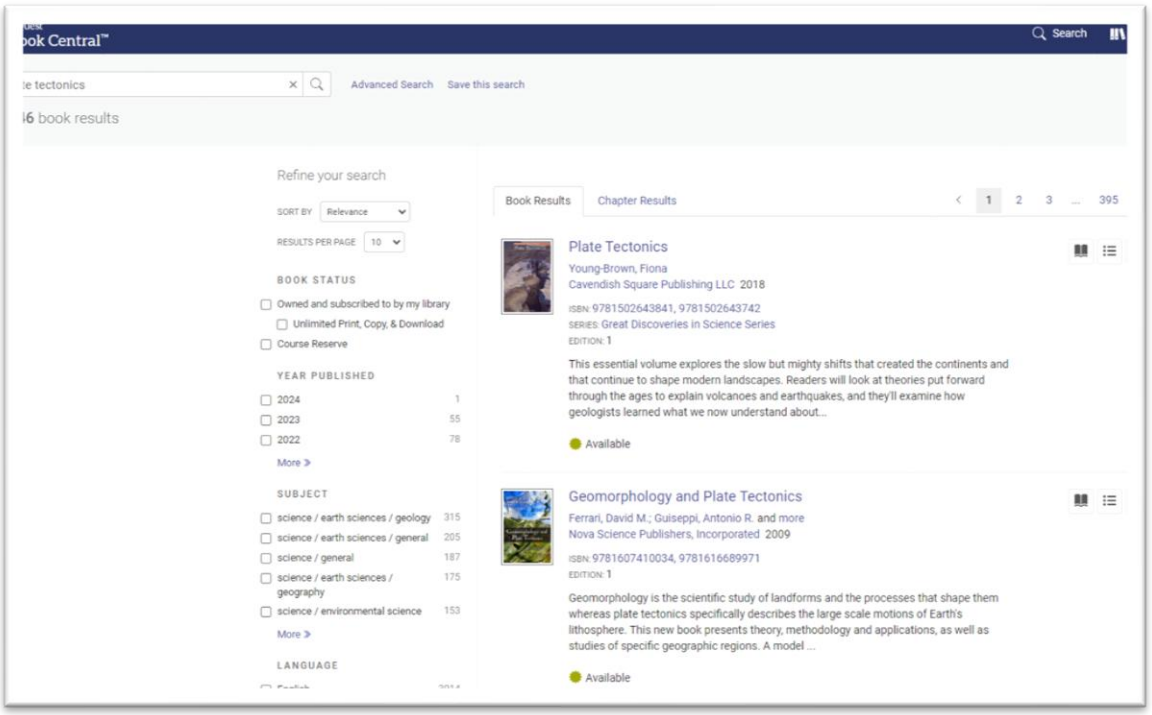
JSTOR provides access to more than 12 million scholarly journal articles and eBooks, and is especially good for primary sources.



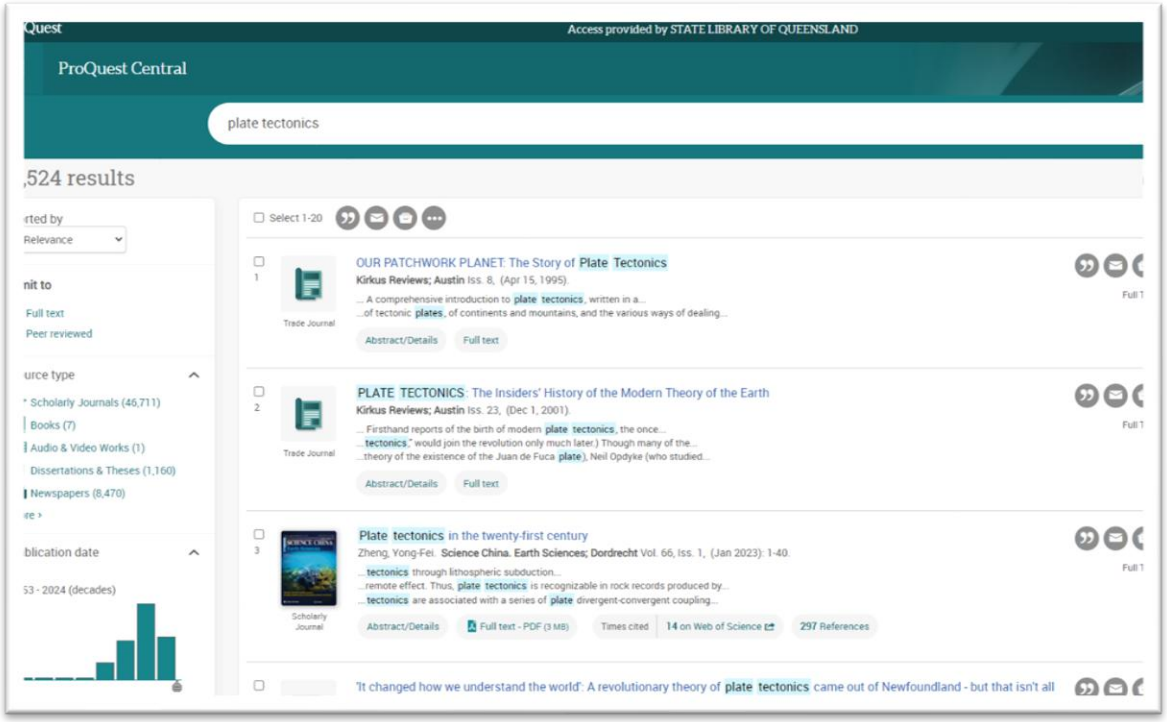
Gale Interactive: Science provides a comprehensive view of the most-studied science subjects. Authoritative, high-quality digital content is paired with interactive 3D models.



ProQuest Ebook Central Compiles a library of topic specific ebooks for you to access free through your SLQ membership.



ProQuest Central brings together 47 databases across 175 subject areas, providing easy intuitive access to an incredibly broad and comprehensive range of content.



The Rock Cycle

Describe the key processes of the rock cycle, including the timescales over which they occur, and examine how the properties of sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic rocks reflect their formation and influence their use.

- Comparing the observable properties of different types of rocks and identifying them using a provided dichotomous key.
- Exploring the major processes of the rock cycle including weathering, erosion, deposition, melting, crystallisation, uplift, heat and pressure in the formation of different types of rocks.
- Analysing the role of forces and heat energy in the formation of different types of rocks and comparing how quickly or slowly different processes can occur.
- Examining fossil evidence, such as body, trace or opalised fossils, to predict how and when a rock was formed.
- Explaining the uses of different types of rocks with reference to their properties and formation.
- Exploring the traditional geological knowledges of first nations australians that are used in the selection of different rock types for different purposes.
- Investigating how first nations australians have used quarrying to access rocks for use as or production of everyday objects such as grindstones, hammerstones, anvils and cutting tools.
- Exploring how the mining of ores and minerals impacts on local environments and examining environmental rehabilitation initiatives.

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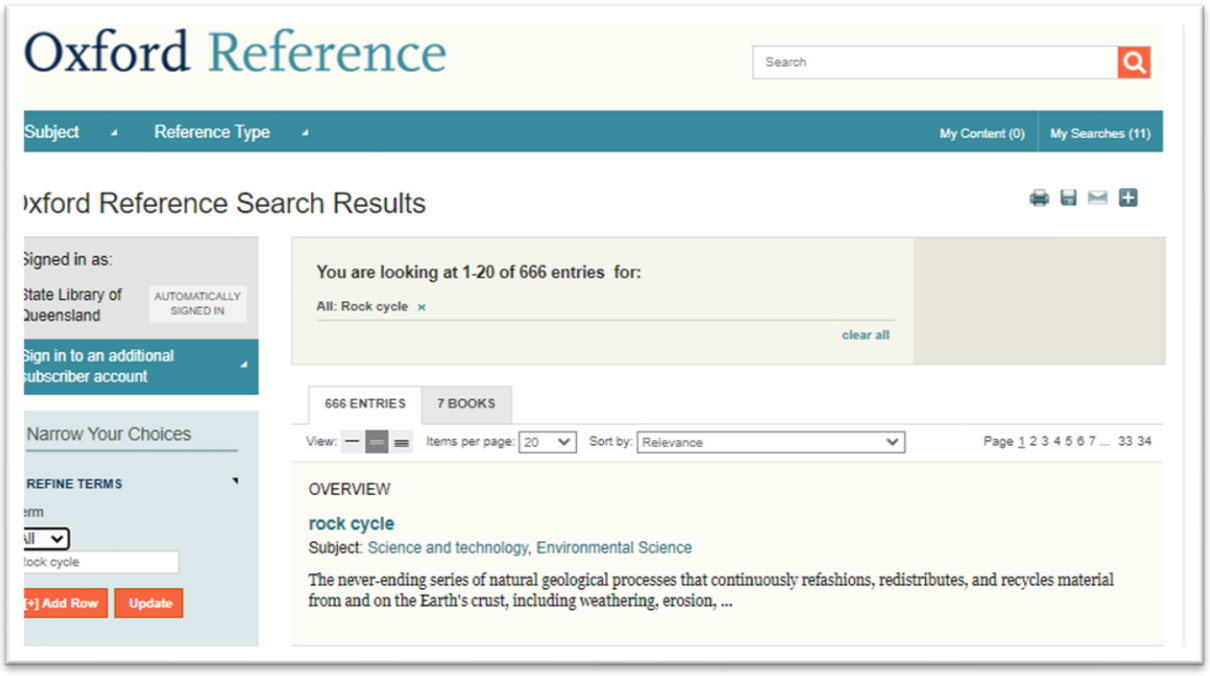

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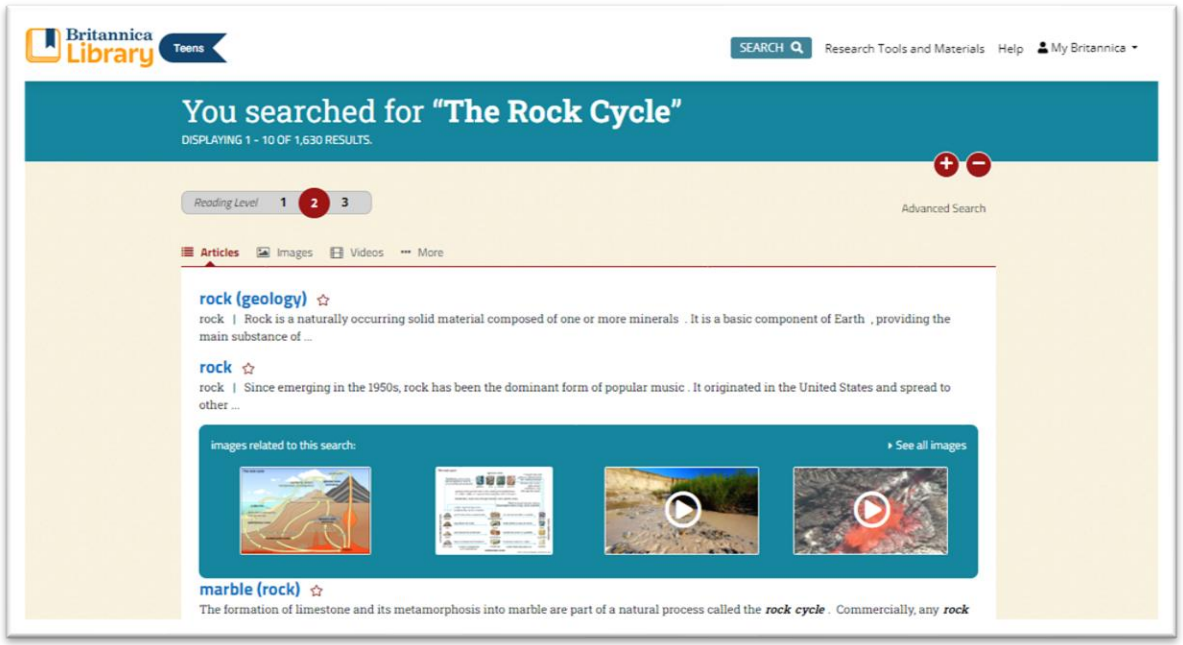

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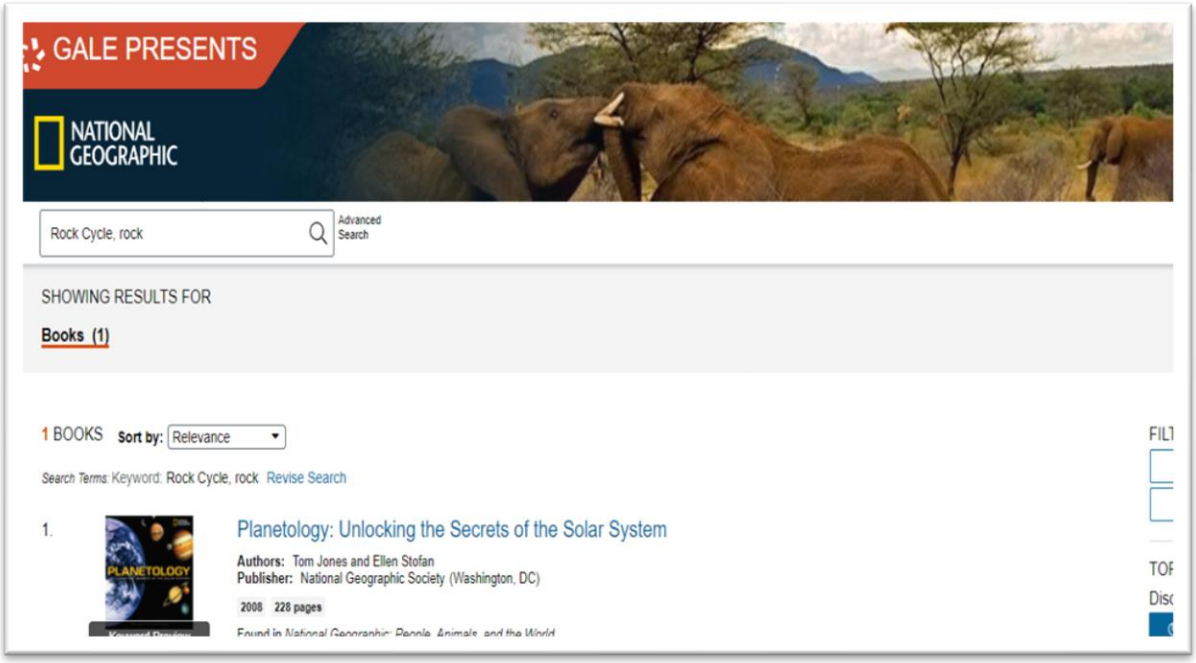

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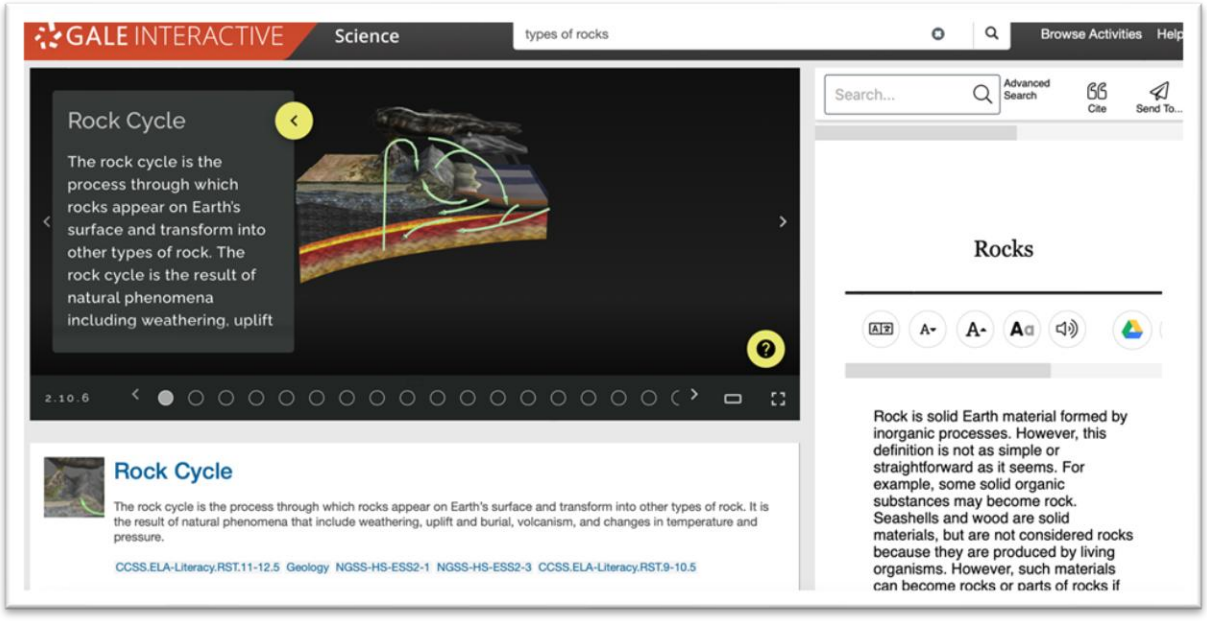

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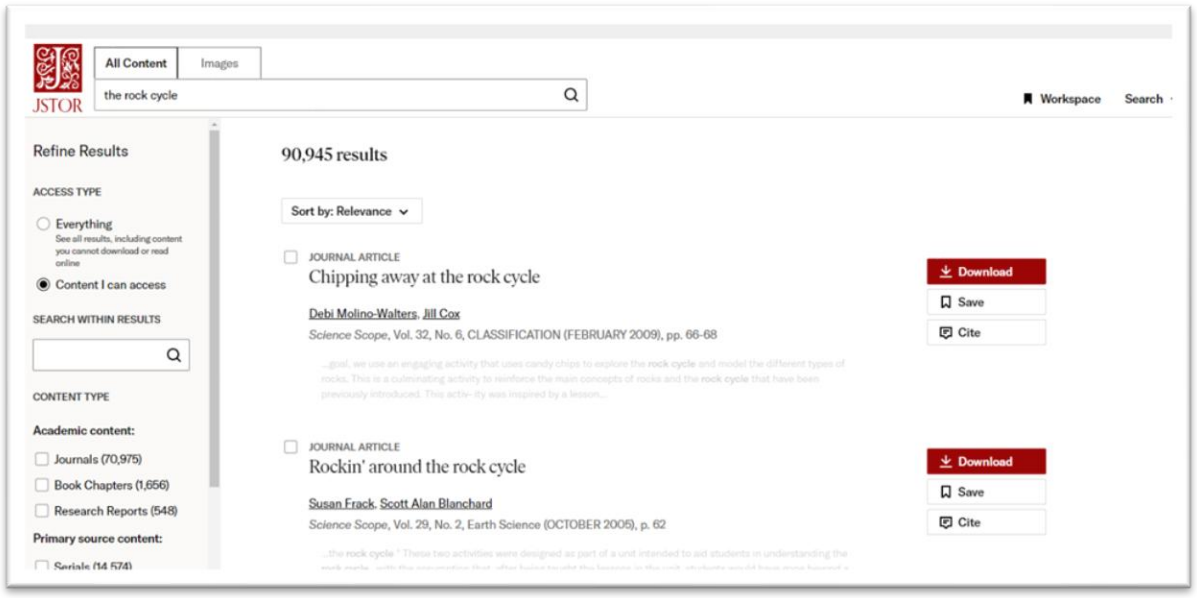

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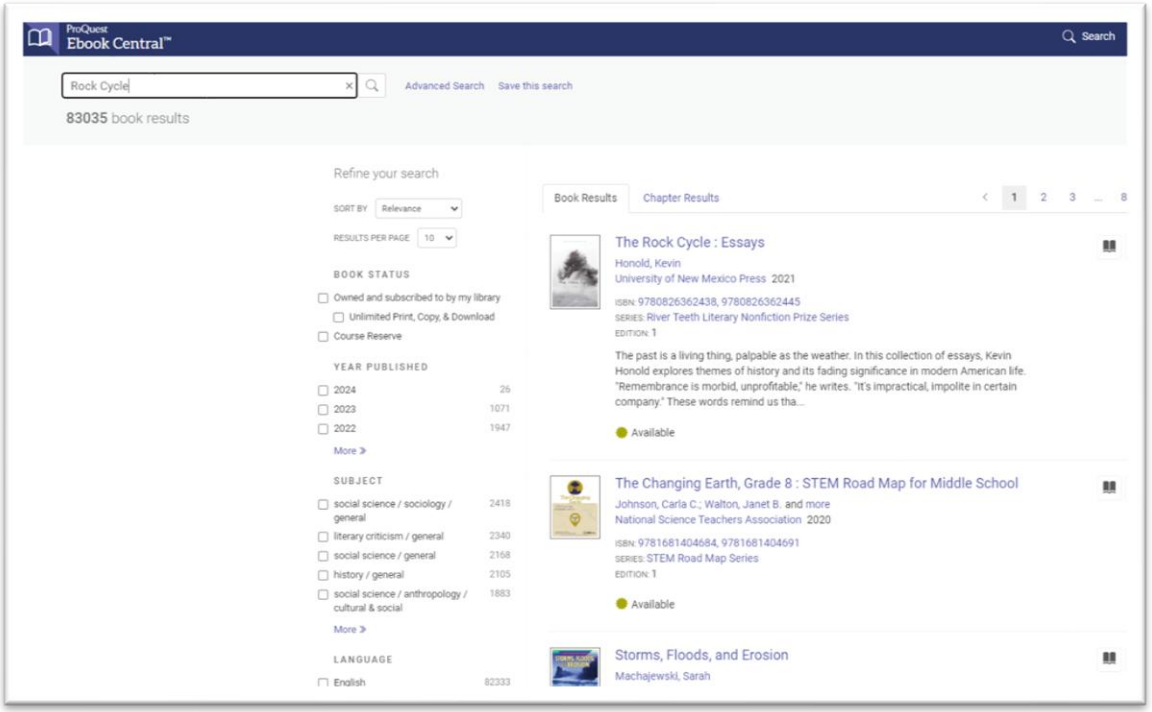

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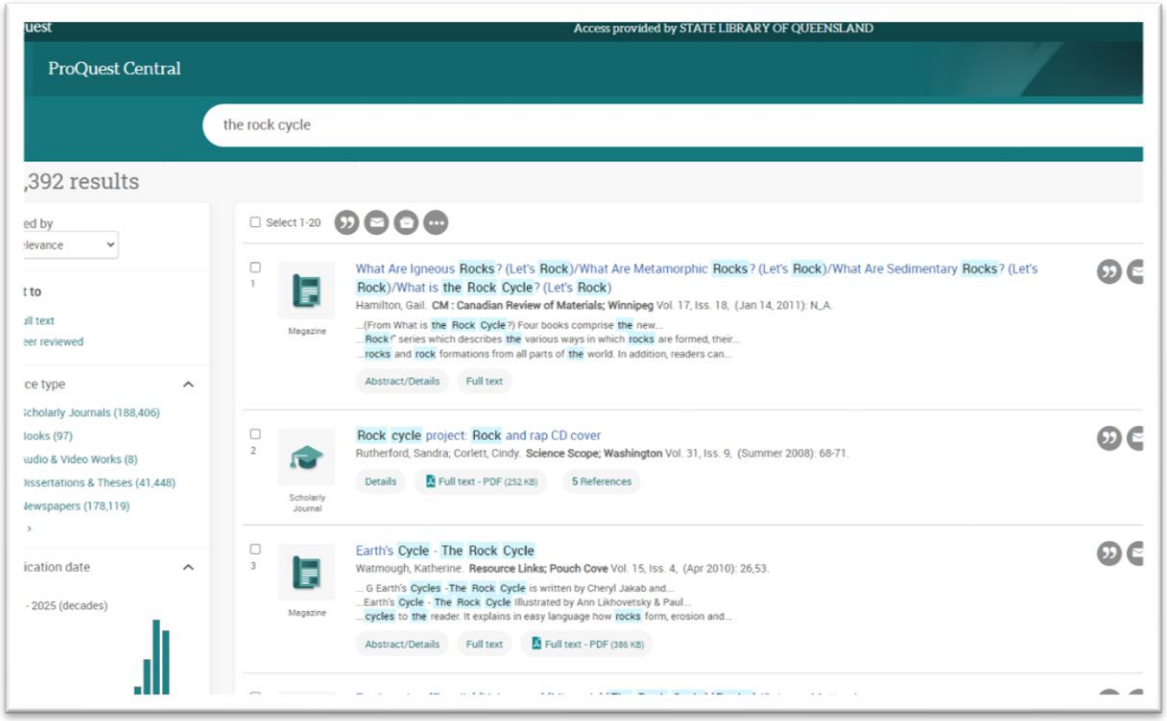

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