

ONLINE LIBRARY: ONGOING EVOLUTION. A BIOSTRATIGRAPHER APPROACH

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The possibility to browse through Earth Science Journals and look for them by means of online search engines makes it easier to find references; furthermore, online catalogues simplify the identification of their location and availability.

Finding and, when possible, consulting publications directly from everyone's PC reduce significantly the time of searching and, consequently, the waste of time connected to articles that might turn out to be not relevant for the ongoing work.

The search for Journals can be performed looking for the title, or part of it, and/or for author or subject. It is also possible to find relevant articles by looking for a single word and scanning through titles, titles and abstracts or the entire article. However, it is not always possible to combine different keys of research.

Bibliographical search engines often operate only on Journals available online and do not extend their search as any other search engine would do. Online catalogues are generally limited to the belongings of each library. Searches based on the Italian Earth Sciences Thesaurus (ThIST) do not cover entirely all research fields.

Two main aspects seems to need further development in the next future: 1) search by keywords or part of them (e.g. nannofossil for nannofossil, nannofossiles, nannofossilien, nannofossili); 2) the number of articles catalogued, even when they are not available online. Finally, hard copies of Journals are still needed, especially as far as images are concerned, because in most cases digital reproduction does not parallel photo quality.