

Information Skills Refresher 3: Dissertation research – going further (Looking for journal articles)

Susan McCourt, Library

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Steps to Finding Reliable Information

- Step 1: Get ready to manage the information you find
- Step 2: Plan your search
- Step 3: What sort of information – sources?
- Step 4: Look for books - use Primo and ebook collections
- **Step 5: Look for research level material, e.g. journal articles. Use the Find Databases option in Primo to identify relevant databases, then link and search**
- Step 6: Look for support materials - Use Google or other search engines
- Step 7: Keep track of your references, avoid plagiarism

In all processes: be aware of copyright and the need to avoid plagiarism

A wide-angle photograph of a modern library interior. The space is characterized by a curved white balcony with a glass railing, overlooking a study area. The study area features rows of bookshelves, tables, and chairs. The ceiling is made of horizontal wooden slats, and the lighting is bright and even. The overall atmosphere is clean, modern, and conducive to study.

Step 5: Look for research level material (journal articles)

In

Search for:

All Collections Online Access Materials Books + **Articles +** Course Reserves

Rare Books, Archival Material and Museum Items

Any field ▼ contains ▼ "oil spill*" Material Type: All items ▼

AND ▼ Any field ▼ contains ▼ ocean OR marine OR maritime OR sea Language: Any language ▼

AND ▼ Any field ▼ contains ▼ environment* Start Date: Day ▼ Month ▼ Year

Primo Articles+ tab: finds items that contain the search terms in **records** of journal articles from a wide range of databases

TIP: Not powerful enough for you. OK for quick checks, but use individual databases for more extensive and in-depth searching

results

0 selected PAGE 1 **56,142 Results** Save query Personalize

1 ARTICLE / multiple sources exist. see all

Oil Spill Dispersants: Boon or Bane?

Why use databases?

- Primo Articles+: good for many undergraduates, good for quick checks on specific items, but search options not as powerful as provided by database providers
- Search engines: millions of results, may need to spend a lot of time evaluating them
- Database – what has been published
 - **Essential** for access to material published in journal/periodicals and at conferences
 - Contain academic and scholarly material
 - Journal articles - refereed research from institutions worldwide
 - Content is authoritative
 - Referring to published research literature demonstrates that you are on top of your subject

Important databases

- **Scopus** and **Web of Science** are the biggest and broadest databases available. Bibliographic with links via Find It! to electronic books and journals that we pay for
- Specialist:
 - **Medline** is the largest medical database (the free version is called PubMed, but it isn't as powerful as Medline)
 - **ABI Inform** and **Econlit** are specialist business, management and economics databases
 - **ATLA** is the biggest religion database
 - **LION** database useful for topics related to English
 - **LexisLibrary** and **Westlaw** are core databases in law
 - **IEEE Xplore** for engineering & computer science
 - **OnePetro** for oil related topics (SPE/OTC papers)
 - **Reaxys** specialist chemistry database
- **JSTOR** full text database - extremely useful for older material (covers most subject areas except Engineering)

Primo > Find Databases

- Portal to all our e-resources (databases, ebook collections etc).
 - Identifies e-resources relevant to your subject
 - Easy to link out to them for searching
- Information available:
 - Description of the database
 - Authentication route (IP address or Shibboleth/UK Federation)
- Use to identify databases – you then link to each database to search it

New
Search

Journal
Search

Find
Databases

Browse

ILL
Request

Find It

Use the Primo **Find Databases** option to:

- identify databases in a subject area
- link through to individual databases

We used this in an earlier session to link through to ebook collections

Database Search

Enter database name



Databases by category

- > Access Route
- All Ebook Collections
- > All General Resources
- > Arts and Humanities
- > Engineering
- > Law
- > Life Sciences
- > Medicine and Health Sciences
- > Physical Sciences
- > Social Sciences

Search for databases

Use the following options to look for, and link to, databases:

- Enter database titles in the search box.
- Browse databases by category.

Databases by category

- > Access Route
- All Ebook Collections
- > All General Resources
- > Arts and Humanities
- > Engineering
- > Law
- > Life Sciences
- > Medicine and Health Sciences

- ▼ **Physical Sciences**

- All Key Databases

- Archaeology

- Chemistry

- Computing

- Geography

- Geology

- Land Economy

- Maths

- Physics

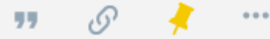
- > Social Sciences

1

ACM Digital Library

Digital Library service from the Association for Computing Machinery. Includes bibliographic information, abstracts, reviews and the full text for articles published in ACM journals and proceedings since its founding in 1947. Selected works published by affiliated organisations are also available.

[Available Online >](#)

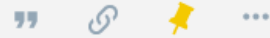


2

ACS Publications

Full text electronic access to journals produced by the American Chemical Society (ACS). Contains hundreds of thousands of journal articles. Searches can be carried out across in-press items and published articles. Use Search Tips for advice on input of Author names - case sensitive.

[Available Online >](#)

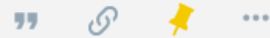


3

Agricultural & Environmental Science Collection (ProQuest)

The Agricultural & Environmental Science Collection contains titles from around the world, including scholarly journals, trade and industry journals, magazines, technical reports, conference proceedings, and government publications. It also includes specialized, editorially-curated abstract & indexing resources as well as the renowned AGRICOLA and TOXLINE databases and content previously available in ESPM (Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management) and Environmental Impact Statements (EIS).

[Available Online >](#)

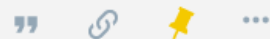


4

Anthropological Index Online

Index to periodical articles in all branches of anthropology, based on the journal holdings of the Anthropology Library at the British Museum (Museum of Mankind).

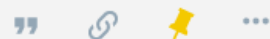
[Available Online >](#)



5

Anthropology Plus (EBSCO)

Anthropology Plus brings together into one resource the highly respected Anthropological Literature from Harvard University and Anthropological Index, Royal Anthropological Institute from the UK. Anthropology Plus provides extensive worldwide indexing of journal articles, reports, commentaries, edited works, and obituaries in the fields of social, cultural, physical, biological, and linguistic anthropology, ethnology, archaeology, folklore, material culture, and interdisciplinary studies. The index offers excellent coverage of all core periodicals in the field in addition to local and lesser-known journals. Coverage is from the late 19th century to the present.



Databases by category

- > Access Route
- > All Ebook Collections
- > All General Resources
- > Arts and Humanities
- > Engineering
- > Law
- > Life Sciences
- > Medicine and Health Sciences
- ▼ Physical Sciences
 - All Key Databases
 - Archaeology
 - Chemistry
 - Computing
 - Geography
 - Geology
 - Land Economy
 - Maths
 - Physics

4 databases found for *All Key Databases*

- OnePetro (SPE)**

OnePetro is an online library that provides a simple way to search for and access a broad range of technical literature related to the oil and gas exploration and production industry. The following organisations have their technical documents available through OnePetro: American Petroleum Institute (API), American Rock Mechanics Association (ARMA), American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE), International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM), Offshore Technology Conference (OTC), NACE International (corrosion engineers), Petroleum Society of Canada (PETSOC), Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE), Society of Petrophysicists and Well Log Analysts (SPWLA), The Society of Underwater Technology (SUT), World Petroleum Council (WPC).

[Available Online >](#)
- Reaxys**

Reaxys contains an extensive repository of experimentally validated chemical data including structures, reactions (including multi-step reactions) and physical properties. Covers organic, inorganic and organometallic structures. Reaxys is the replacement service for the CrossFire Beilstein and Gmelin resource.

[Available Online >](#)
- Scopus (Elsevier)**


Scopus is one of the largest multidisciplinary databases that we have access to. Subject coverage is scientific, medical, technical and social science. Scopus contains more than 70 million records covering articles from peer-reviewed titles from 20,000 international publishers. More than 4,000 open access journals are included. References go back to 1996. Records go back to 1788.

[Available Online >](#)
- Web of Science (Clarivate)**

Web of Science (WoS) Core Collection contains more than 70 million records covering material from over 20,000 journals, books and conference proceedings. The Collection comprises three large multidisciplinary databases. They are Science Citation Index (1900-current), Social Sciences Citation Index (1900-current) and Arts & Humanities Citation Index (1975-current). Each of the databases fully indexes core journals in its general area, including research and scholarly articles, book and other reviews, editorials, letters and biographical items. WoS Core Collection also contains the following: the Conference Proceedings Citation Index for Science (1990-current), the Conference Proceedings Citation Index for Social Sciences & Humanities (1990-current), the Book Citation Index for Science (2005-current), the Book Citation Index for Social Sciences & Humanities (2005-current). When searching directly (not via Primo) the databases can be searched singly or in any

Full text availability

Scopus (Elsevier)

 *Online version available for university members only. This requires an institutional login off-campus*



Details

Title

Scopus (Elsevier)

Summary

Scopus is one of the largest multidisciplinary databases that we have access to. Subject coverage is scientific, medical, technical and social science. Scopus contains more than 70 million records covering articles from peer-reviewed titles from 20,000 international publishers. More than 4,000 open access journals are included. References go back to 1996. Records go back to 1788. Publication coverage: 1788 - current.

Publisher

Elsevier

Language

English

Shelfmark

e Database

Source

Library Catalog

Search relevant databases

- **Scopus** and **Web of Science**
 - For Law – Westlaw and Lexis
 - For Medicine and medical Sciences - Medline
- Large databases covering science, technology, medicine and social science (& arts/humanities – Web of Science)
 - Over 60 million records, some back to mid 1820s
 - Mainly research papers (journal articles, conference papers) published by academics
- Easy to use
 - Simple search rules
 - Links full text and library catalogue
 - Produce simple formatted bibliographies and direct export to RefWorks
 - Lots of help available
- Off campus access: Shibboleth / UK Federation / Institutional login process

Library Information Skills Workshop: Designing your Search Strategy – Search grid/matrix

Try **brainstorming to analyse your topic**. In the blank box below write any words, phrases and authors that come to mind regarding your assignment. The words don't have to be in any order. Think about acronyms, singular and plural forms, word endings and spelling differences, e.g. US and UK English.

Now group your terms together. Look at the most important idea in your assignment = concept/idea 1. Do you have more than one word/phrase for that idea e.g. oil OR gas OR petroleum? Place the words in the 1st row of the grid/matrix below. What is your second most important concept/idea? Do you have more than one word/phrase for that idea? Write them in the 2nd row. If you have an additional concept/idea, write words/phrases for this in the 3rd row. Now apply the search rules (e.g. truncation symbol; "quotation marks" for phrases - where applicable) for the database you wish to search.

Concepts	Alternative keywords/phrases				
Concept/Idea 1		OR		OR	
AND					
Concept/Idea 2		OR		OR	
AND					
Concept/Idea 3		OR		OR	

You are now ready to construct your "search string" in your selected database using the Boolean operators **OR** and **AND**. Many databases use a search interface which where you only need to type the **OR** operator within the search line/row as the **AND** operator between lines is already assumed (it is the default setting – do not change it!)

You do not need to fill every box or line however for some assignments you may need a grid that is greater than 3 x 3. The same process applies no matter the grid/matrix size: words/phrases on same line/row = same idea/concept and remember to apply the search rules (e.g. truncation symbol; "quotation marks" for phrases - where applicable) for the database you wish to search.

Use your search grid

Concepts	Alternative keywords				
Idea 1	"oil spill*"	OR			
AND					
Idea 2	sea*	OR	ocean*	OR	marine
AND					
Idea 3	environment*	OR			
AND					
Idea 4	whale*	OR	dolphin*		



Document search

Compare sources >

Documents Authors Affiliations [Advanced](#)

[Search tips ?](#)

Search

Article title, Abstract, Keywords

E.g., "Cognitive architectures" AND robots

> Limit

Reset form

Search Q

- Single search box = add more to replicate your search grid
- Different ideas on different lines



Document search

Compare sources

Documents Authors Affiliations [Advanced](#)

[Search tips](#)

Search "oil spill*"

E.g., "Cognitive architectures" AND robots

AND

Search sea OR ocean* OR marine



Article title, Abstract, Keywords



Article title, Abstract, Keywords



> Limit

Remember to apply the correct search rules – see our worksheets



12,489 document results

(TITLE-ABS-KEY("oil spill*") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY(sea OR ocean* OR marine))

Edit Save Set alert Set feed

Search within results...

Refine results

Limit to Exclude

- Access type
- Source title
- Year
- Author name
- Publication stage
- Affiliation
- Subject area


Documents Secondary documents Patents View Mendeley Data (656874)

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	Document title	Authors	Year	Source	Cited by
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Changes in Reef Fish Community Structure Following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill no info Open Access	Lewis, J.P., Tarnecki, J.H., Garner, S.B., Chagaris, D.D., Patterson, W.F.	2020	Scientific Reports 10(1),5621	0
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<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Optimization of biodegradation of long chain n-Alkanes by Rhodococcus sp. Moj-3449 using response surface methodology no info	Binazadeh, M., Li, Z., Karimi, I.A.	2020	Physical Chemistry Research 8(1), pp. 45-59	0
	View abstract	Related documents			


Do not worry if you get a large number of results. These can be refined and narrowed


Search within results... 


Refine results


Limit to Exclude


Access type ⓘ 


Source title 


Year 


Author name 


Publication stage 


Affiliation 


Subject area 


Source type 

Keyword 

Funding sponsor 

Document type 

Language 

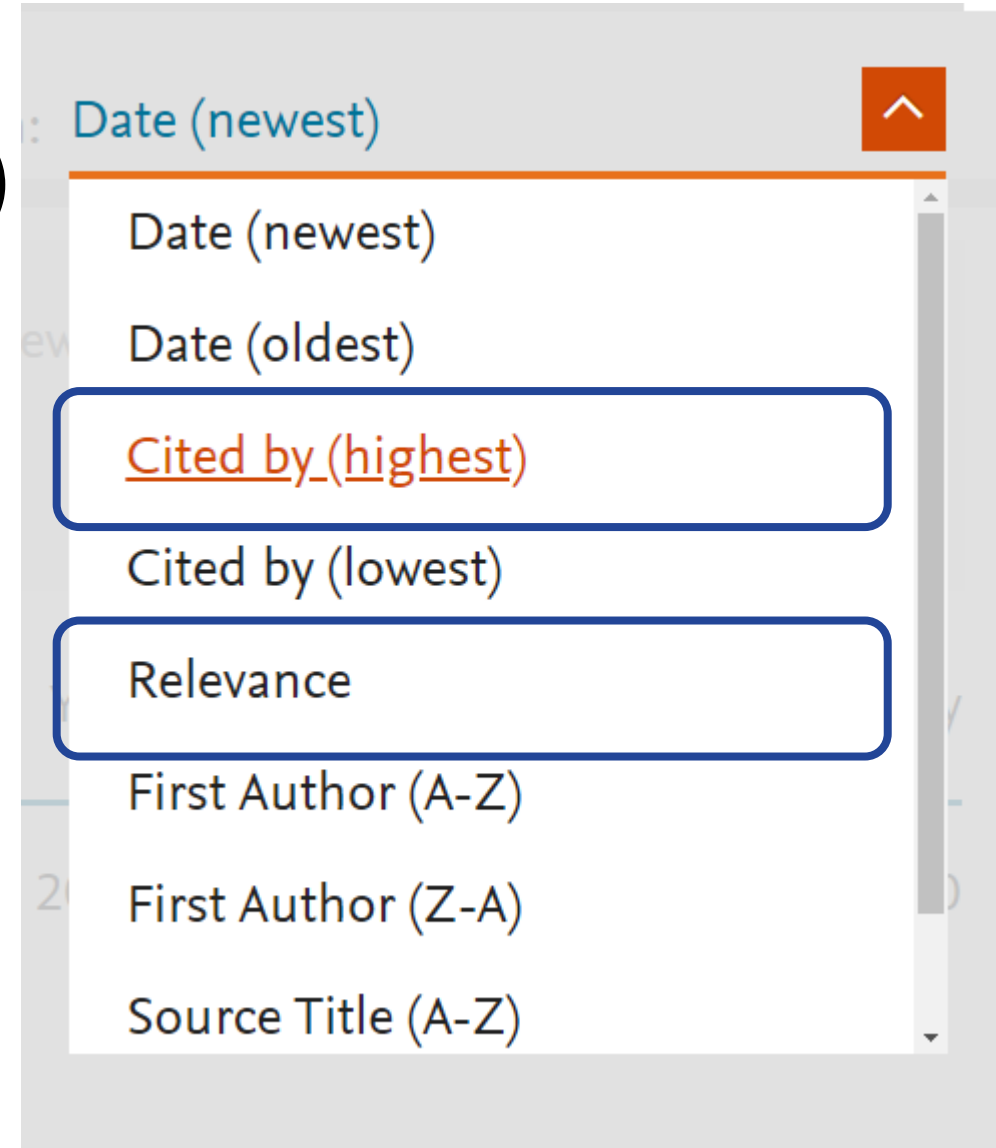
Country/territory 

Refine/Limit/Narrow your results

- Add extra search terms – a third idea, a fourth idea?
 - Use your planning grid
 - Skim read some of your results to find additional search terms (keywords)
- Look at Limit/Refine options offered by the database
 - By Document type e.g. Review articles
 - By Subject area

Sort your results

- Don't rely on the default (recent first)
- Up-to-date is very useful, but others can be helpful too:
 - Cited by (highest)
 - Relevance



When evaluating your results

- Skim and scan results
 - Read the abstracts
 - Click on title to move through to more detailed record (with extra keywords)
 - Use Find It! option to link to full-text (where available)
 - Keep a note of relevant material that is only available in paper format
 - Adjust and improve your keywords (write them down!)
- Mark relevant references
 - Send/export to RefWorks (or similar)
- Set up Alerts – get new records sent to you
- READ WHAT YOU'VE FOUND...

Analyze search results


Show all abstracts Sort on: Relevance


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	Document title	Authors	Year	Source	Cited by
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Review of historical unusual mortality events (UMEs) in the Gulf of Mexico (1990-2009): Providing context for the multi-year northern Gulf of Mexico cetacean UME declared in 2010 Open Access	Litz, J.A., Baran, M.A., Bowen-Stevens, S.R., (...), Worthy, G.A.J., Rowles, T.K.	2014	Diseases of Aquatic Organisms 112(2), pp. 161-175	33
	View abstract Related documents				
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Environmental effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: A review	Beyer, J., Trannum, H.C., Bakke, T., Hodson, P.V., Collier, T.K.	2016	Marine Pollution Bulletin 110(1), pp. 28-51	164
	View abstract Related documents				
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Key taxa in food web responses to stressors: the Deepwater Horizon oil spill	McCann, M.J., Able, K.W., Christian, R.R., (...), Roberts, B.J., Ziegler, S.L.	2017	Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment 15(3), pp. 142-149	20
	View abstract Related documents				

Environmental effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: A review (Review)

Beyer, J.^a, Trannum, H.C.^a, Bakke, T.^a, Hodson, P.V.^b, Collier, T.K.^c 

 [Save all to author list](#)

^aNIVA — Norwegian Institute for Water Research, NO-0349, Oslo, Norway


^bSchool of Environmental Studies, Queen's University, K7L 3N6, Kingston, Ontario, Canada



^cDelta Independent Science Board, 980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500, Sacramento, CA 95814, United States

Abstract

[View references \(302\)](#)

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill constituted an ecosystem-level injury in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Much oil spread at 1100–1300 m depth, contaminating and affecting deepwater habitats. Factors such as oil-biodegradation, **ocean** currents and response measures (dispersants, burning) reduced coastal oiling. Still, > 2100 km of shoreline and many coastal habitats were affected. Research demonstrates that oiling caused a wide range of biological effects, although worst-case impact scenarios did not materialize. Biomarkers in individual organisms were more informative about oiling stress than population and community indices. Salt marshes and seabird populations were hard hit, but were also quite resilient to oiling effects. Monitoring demonstrated little contamination of seafood. Certain impacts are still understudied, such as effects on seagrass communities. Concerns of long-term impacts remain for large fish species, deep-**sea** corals, **sea** turtles and cetaceans. These species and their habitats should continue to receive attention (monitoring and research) for years to come. © 2016 Elsevier Ltd

6.54  Field-Weighted Citation Impact

 PlumX Metrics 
Usage, Captures, Mentions,
Social Media and Citations
beyond Scopus.

Cited by 164 documents

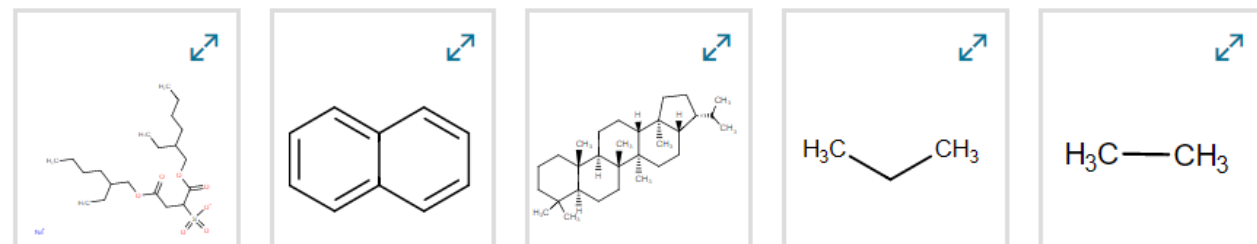
[Teratogenic effects of environmentally relevant concentrations of phenanthrene on the early development of marine medaka \(*Oryzias melastigma*\)](#)

Zheng, Y. , Li, Y. , Yue, Z.
(2020) *Chemosphere*

[Acute exposure to oil induces age and species-specific transcriptional responses in embryonic-larval estuarine fish](#)



Substances



Author keywords

Deepwater Horizon oil spill Environmental effects Review

Indexed keywords

EMTREE drug terms: water pollutant

EMTREE medical terms: animal chemical accident climate ecosystem Gulf of Mexico oil spill water pollutant wetland

MeSH: Animals Chemical Hazard Release Climate Ecosystem Gulf of Mexico Petroleum Pollution Water Pollutants, Chemical Wetlands

Chemicals and CAS Registry Numbers:

Water Pollutants, Chemical

(2020) *Science of the Total Environment*

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Related research data ⓘ

[The Utility of Stable and Radioisotopes in Fish Tissues as Biogeochemical Tracers of Marine Oil Spill Food Web Effects](#)

Patterson III, William F. , et al
Springer International Publishing

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Related documents

[Fallout plume of submerged oil from Deepwater Horizon](#)

Valentine, D.L. , Fisher, G.B. , Bagby, S.C.
(2014) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*

[Microbial response to the MC 252 oil and](#)



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Table with 5 columns: Document title, Authors, Year, Source, Cited by. It lists three research papers with their respective authors and sources.



Use Find it to check availability



Environmental effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: A review

Beyer, Jonny; Trannum, Hilde C; Bakke, Torgeir; Hodson, Peter V; Collier, Tracy K

ISSN: 0025-326X , 1879-3363; DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2016.06.027

Marine pollution bulletin , 2016, Vol.110(1), p.28-51

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i COVID-19 campus closures: see options for getting or retaining Remote Access to subscribed content



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Advanced

Outline

Highlights

Abstract

Graphical abstract

Keywords

1. Introduction

2. Environmental research on Deepwater Horizon oil spill

3. Overall discussion

4. Summary and conclusion

Acknowledgement

References

Show full outline

Figures (4)



ELSEVIER

Marine Pollution Bulletin

Volume 110, Issue 1, 15 September 2016, Pages 28-51



Review

Environmental effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: A review

Jonny Beyer ^a, Hilde C. Trannum ^a, Torgeir Bakke ^a, Peter V. Hodson ^b, Tracy K. Collier ^c

Show more

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.marpolbul.2016.06.027>

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Highlights

- The environmental fate of spilled oil and gas
- The biological/ecotoxicological effects in offshore ecosystems
- The effects in nearshore and coastal sites
- The effects on long-lived marine organisms

Recommended articles

Active biomonitoring of mussels *Mytilus gallopr...*

Marine Pollution Bulletin, Volume 110, Issue 1, 2016, ...

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Citation Indexes: 164



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Review

Environmental effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: A review

Jonny Beyer ^{a,*}, Hilde C. Trannum ^a, Torgeir Bakke ^a, Peter V. Hodson ^b, Tracy K. Collier ^c



^a NIVA – Norwegian Institute for Water Research, NO-0349, Oslo, Norway

^b School of Environmental Studies, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6, Canada

^c Delta Independent Science Board, 980 Ninth Street, Suite 1500, Sacramento, CA 95814, USA

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Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Environmental effects

Review

ABSTRACT

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill constituted an ecosystem-level injury in the northern Gulf of Mexico. Much oil spread at 1100–1300 m depth, contaminating and affecting deepwater habitats. Factors such as oil-biodegradation, ocean currents and response measures (dispersants, burning) reduced coastal oiling. Still, >2100 km of shoreline and many coastal habitats were affected. Research demonstrates that oiling caused a wide range of biological effects, although worst-case impact scenarios did not materialize. Biomarkers in individual organisms were more informative about oiling stress than population and community indices. Salt marshes and seabird populations were hard hit, but were also quite resilient to oiling effects. Monitoring demonstrated little contamination of seafood. Certain impacts are still understudied, such as effects on seagrass communities. Concerns of long-term impacts remain for large fish species, deep-sea corals, sea turtles and cetaceans. These species and their habitats should continue to receive attention (monitoring and research) for years to come.

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2.1.3.	Role of sunlight on fate of surface oil	33

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Document title	Authors	Year	Source	Cited by
<input type="checkbox"/> Review of historical unusual mortality events (UMEs) in the Gulf of Mexico (1990-2009): Providing context for the multi-year northern Gulf of Mexico cetacean UME declared in 2010 Open Access	Litz, J.A., Baran, M.A., Bowen-Stevens, S.R., (...), Worthy, G.A.J., Rowles, T.K.	2014	Diseases of Aquatic Organisms 112(2), pp. 161-175	33
View abstract Related documents				
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: A review	Beyer, J., Trannum, H.C., Bakke, T., Hodson, P.V., Collier, T.K.	2016	Marine Pollution Bulletin 110(1), pp. 28-51	164
View abstract Related documents				
<input type="checkbox"/> Key taxa in food web responses to stressors: the Deepwater Horizon oil spill	McCann, M.J., Able, K.W., Christian, R.R., (...), Roberts, B.J., Ziegler, S.L.	2017	Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment 15(3), pp. 142-149	20
View abstract Related documents				

“Find It”: very important exception for oil/gas/energy

- Conference papers (SPE & OTC) published by the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) and some other oil/gas/energy related organisations are listed in Scopus (and other databases) but no links are provided to the full-text even though we have paid for these items
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 - Copy the title from Scopus, open up the OnePetro database, paste the title. You should find the item there
- If you are a student member of SPE it would be really helpful if you could contact them to say how helpful it would be if they would “open up OnePetro conference papers to link resolver tools such as “Find it” (Thanks 😊!)

We do not have access to everything

- **Databases provide information on millions of articles and research papers**
 - Not everything is available in electronic format
 - Always use “Find it”
 - Important: SPE/OTC and some other oil/gas/energy conference papers do not reliably show as available in SFX. Copy and paste the title into OnePetro to double-check
 - We do not subscribe to everything that has been published
 - **If we do not hold an item (in paper or electronic format) you are not expected to be able to use it**
- **If not available and you really, really want it**
 - Carry out Advanced Google search – author may have made it available on their home page or in their institutional repository. It may be available in ResearchGate or other academic sharing sites
 - Scopus and Web of Science provide email details for authors. Contact author (short polite email) to ask if it is possible for them to supply a copy. Or check LinkedIn!
 - Speak with your supervisor if there are many relevant documents that we do not have access to – they will advise

Action – get started

- Use Primo > Find Databases to link through to relevant databases
- Search across more than one database – they index different journals and other source materials



[https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library
/support/information-skills-
179.php](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/library/support/information-skills-179.php)

