

Searching databases

Books in print from the library are only one of the many sources of information available to us as researchers. The next source of information worth considering as we work on our research paper is academic journals from the library databases.

What are library databases

Technically and in general, a **database** is a large collection and storage of data, organized in tables and in a way to make it searchable by computer. Databases are long tables filled with information that people can search through. A list of patients in a hospital, a list of customers or products in a business, a list of demographic information from the census, these are examples of databases.



(Graphic depiction of a database, emphasizing its function as information storage, source: wikipedia commons.)

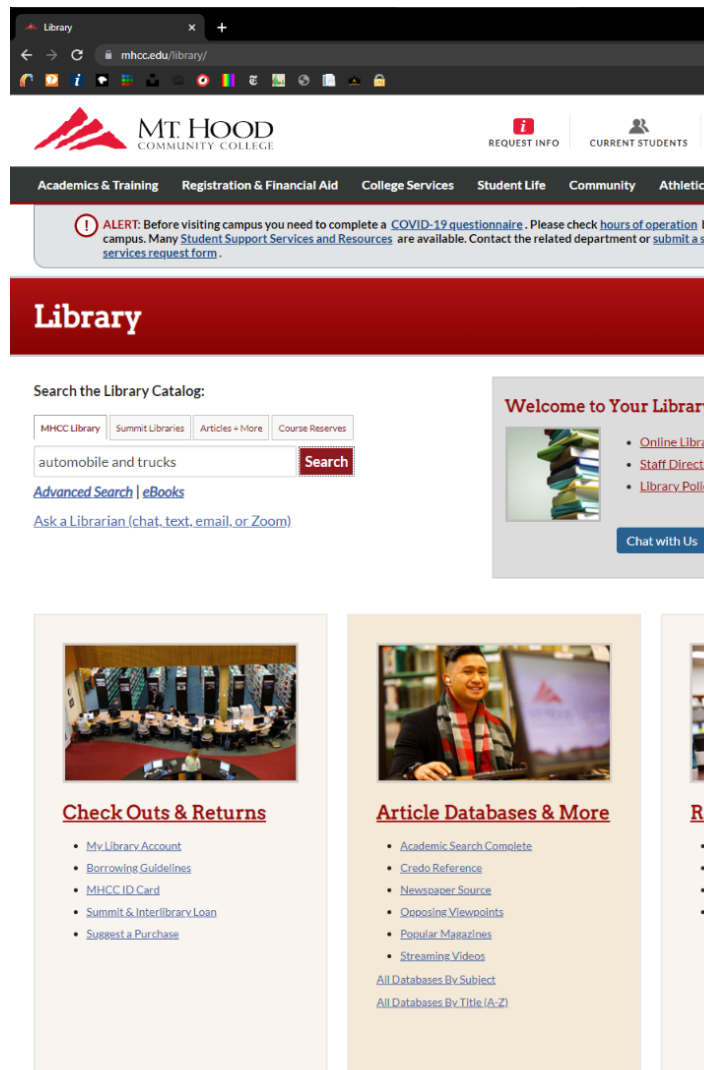
The specific databases we are interested in are library journal databases. **Library databases** are lists of articles published in academic journals. When researching a topic for a college paper, we want to have access to scholarly and academic publications relevant to our topic. These publications are listed in the library databases and available for us to use.

Why use databases

We use library databases for the same reason we use library books: to find information about our topic. However, books and database articles are very different: while books are broad in topic, and cover it in depth, articles from academic journals are usually **narrow** in scope and cover a **single event**, like an experiment, survey, historical event, etcetera.

The library has dozens of journal databases. There's online **encyclopedias** (Credo Reference), **dictionaries** (Oxford English Dictionary online), **peer reviewed** journal databases (Academic Search Complete), databases with **editorial and opinion** articles (Opposing Viewpoints), Databases with accessible articles from glossy **magazines** (Popular magazines) and databases where you can find **news articles** from newspapers (Newspaper Source).

Databases are very specific sources of scholarly information, and an article that is peer reviewed doesn't necessarily mean it's of better quality. **Peer review** is a very specific method of evaluating information in an article and usually happens for the most part in scientific research. Peer review is rarely seen in news, magazine, or opinion articles.



(Location of the databases links in the library's home page)

Exercise

In this exercise we will practice finding peer reviewed articles from the Academic Search Complete database.

Go to the college website www.mhcc.edu.

At the top menu, hover over the Quick Links tab.
Select the library tab from the drop down menu.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Mt. Hood Community College website. The header includes the college logo, a 'REQUEST INFO' button, and links for 'CURRENT STUDENTS', 'MYMHCC LOGIN', 'QUICK LINKS', and 'SEARCH'. Below this is a dark navigation bar with tabs for 'Academics & Training', 'Registration & Financial Aid', 'College Services', 'Student Life', 'Community', 'Athletics', 'About', and 'GIVEN'. The 'QUICK LINKS' dropdown menu is open, showing options like 'NEWS & EVENTS', 'SCHEDULE A CAMPUS TOUR', 'CAMPUS MAPS', 'LIBRARY' (highlighted in red), 'TUITION / COST OF ATTENDING', 'JOBS AT MHCC', 'CAMPUS DIRECTORY', and 'NOVATIME'. A large banner features a portrait of Peter Cunningham and the text 'Peter Cunningham Earns NASBITE Trade Educator of the Year Award'. Below the banner is a red bar with five sections: 'Welcome To MHCC! LET'S GET STARTED', 'Apply Now! >' (with a link to the admission policy), 'Register for Classes >' (with a link to log into MyMHCC), 'New Students >' (with a link to explore options), and 'Schedule of Classes >' (with a link to check offerings).

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO LEARN TODAY?



At the library home page, go toward the middle of the page to find the **Article Databases & More** panel.

Click the **Academic Search Complete** link.

The screenshot shows three panels from a library website. The first panel, titled 'Returns', features an image of a library interior with bookshelves and a red curved desk. The second panel, titled 'Article Databases & More', features an image of a male student smiling at a computer monitor. Below the title, it lists two links: 'Academic Search Complete' and 'Credo Reference'. The third panel, titled 'Research Help', features an image of a male student wearing glasses and writing in a notebook. Below the title, it lists two links: 'Ask a Librarian' and 'Subject Guides'.

At the proxy page, type your **MyMHCC login and password** (student id number and portal password as assigned by the college)



Enter your MyMHCC login credentials to proceed to MHCC Library's Online Resources.

Username:
Password:

Need Help? Contact the [Student Help Desk](#) or [Ask a Librarian](#).

This will take us to the database's search page. Here is where we start searching for articles.

We mentioned earlier that database articles tend to be much narrower and specific than books. In the search field, type "Ford", "pickup", and "truck" in the top search field.

Under Limit your results, check both the Full Text and Peer Reviewed button as shown below.

Click the green Search button.

Advanced Search: EBSCOhost

web-p-ebSCOhost-com.ezp.mhcc.edu/ehost/search/advanced?vid=0&sid=54e802a9-2195-42b0-bb62-37cc044e10ee%40redis

New Search Publications Subject Terms Cited References Images More Sign In Folder Preferences Languages Ask-A-Librarian

Searching: Academic Search Complete Choose Databases

Ford Select a Field (optional) Search

AND Pickup Select a Field (optional) Clear ?

AND Truck Select a Field (optional) + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Search Options

Reset

Search Modes and Expanders

Search modes ?

☒ Boolean/Phrase

☐ Find all my search terms

☐ Find any of my search terms

☐ SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Apply related words ☐

Also search within the full text of the articles ☐

Apply equivalent subjects ☒

Limit your results

Full Text ☒

Peer Reviewed ☒

References Available ☐

Published Date

Start month: Month Start year: End month: Month End year:

Find the article *Aerodynamic Investigation of Cooling Drag of a Production Pickup Truck Part 1: Test Results* by Levon Larson. Click on the title link to go to the article itself.

New Search Publications Subject Terms Cited References Images More Sign In Folder Preferences Language

Searching: Academic Search Complete Choose Databases

ford Select a Field (optional) Search

AND pickup Select a Field (optional) Clear ?

AND truck Select a Field (optional) + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Refine Results

Search Results: 1 - 3 of 3

Relevance Page Options Share

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase:

ford AND pickup AND truck

Expanders

Apply equivalent subjects ☒

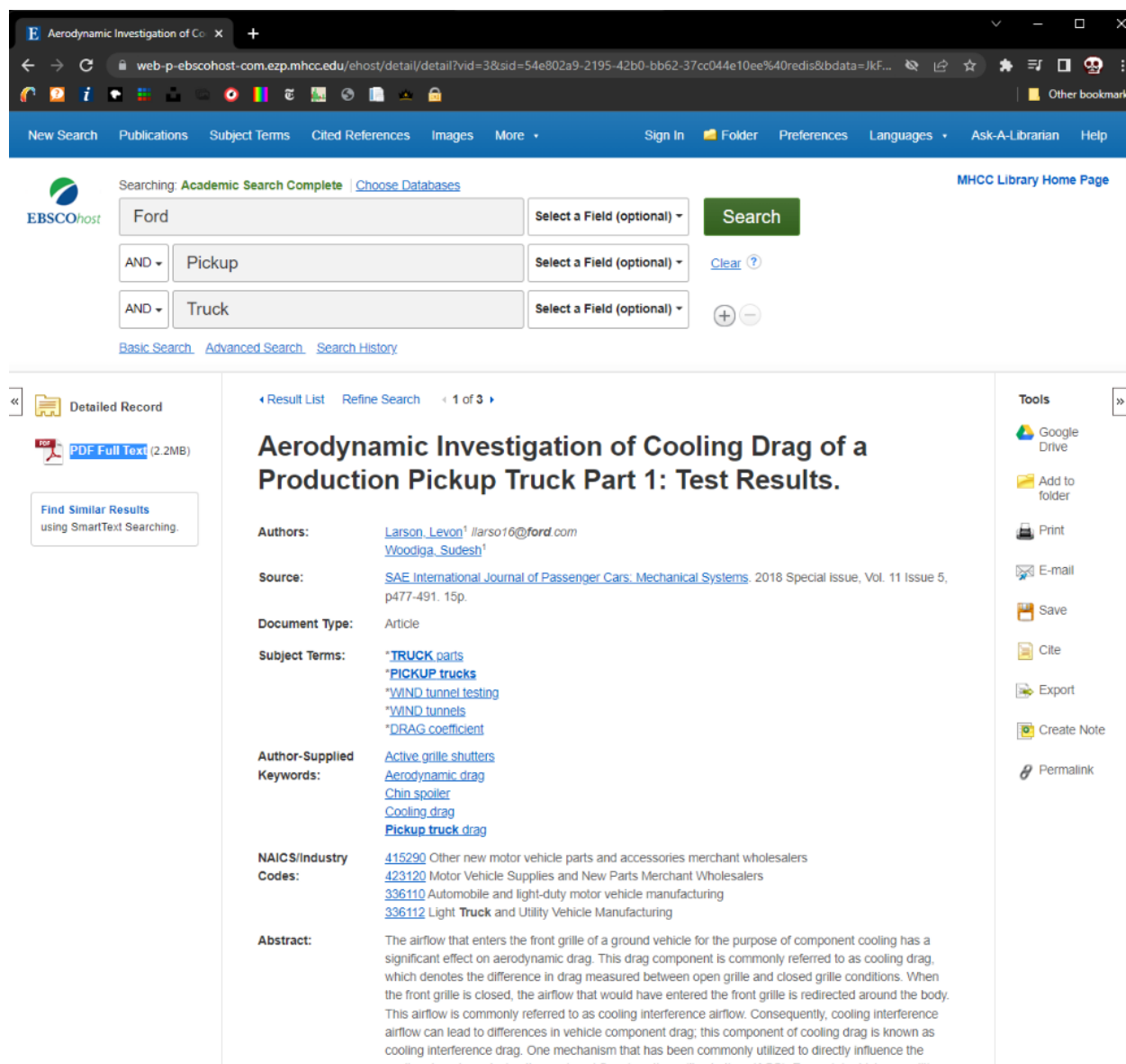
1. Aerodynamic Investigation of Cooling Drag of a Production Pickup Truck Part 1: Test Results

Academic Journal

By: Larson, Levon; Woodiga, Sudesh. SAE International Journal of Passenger Cars: Mechanical Systems. 2018 Special issue, Vol. 11 Issue 5, p477-491. 15p. Abstract: The airflow that enters the front grille of a ground vehicle for the purpose of component cooling has a significant effect on aerodynamic drag. This drag component is commonly referred to as cooling drag, which denotes the difference in drag measured between open grille and closed grille conditions. When the front grille is closed, the airflow that would have entered the front grille is redirected around the body. This airflow is commonly referred to as cooling interference airflow. Consequently, cooling interference airflow can lead to differences in vehicle component

Once in the article's page you will find more information about the article and links to access it. Find information about the article like the authors, the source or journal where the article was published, and the date of publication, all important things to know.

Before you do anything else, read the abstract. An article's **abstract** is a short summary of what the article actually says. It can tell us right away if the article is of use to us. Read the abstract and make sure this article is useful to you. In the article's page, click the PDF Full Text link.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the EBSCOhost search results page. The search query is "Ford Pickup Truck". The results list shows one result, "Aerodynamic Investigation of Cooling Drag of a Production Pickup Truck Part 1: Test Results." by Larson, Levon¹ and Woodiga, Sudesh¹. The source is "SAE International Journal of Passenger Cars: Mechanical Systems", 2018 Special Issue, Vol. 11 Issue 5, p477-491. 15p. The document type is "Article". The subject terms are "TRUCK parts", "PICKUP trucks", "WIND tunnel testing", "WIND tunnels", and "DRAG coefficient". The author-supplied keywords are "Active grille shutters", "Aerodynamic drag", "Chin spoiler", "Cooling drag", and "Pickup truck drag". The NAICS/Industry codes are 415290, 423120, 336110, and 336112. The abstract is visible at the bottom of the results list.

Aerodynamic Investigation of Cooling Drag of a Production Pickup Truck Part 1: Test Results.

Authors: [Larson, Levon¹](#) [Woodiga, Sudesh¹](#)

Source: [SAE International Journal of Passenger Cars: Mechanical Systems](#), 2018 Special Issue, Vol. 11 Issue 5, p477-491. 15p.

Document Type: Article

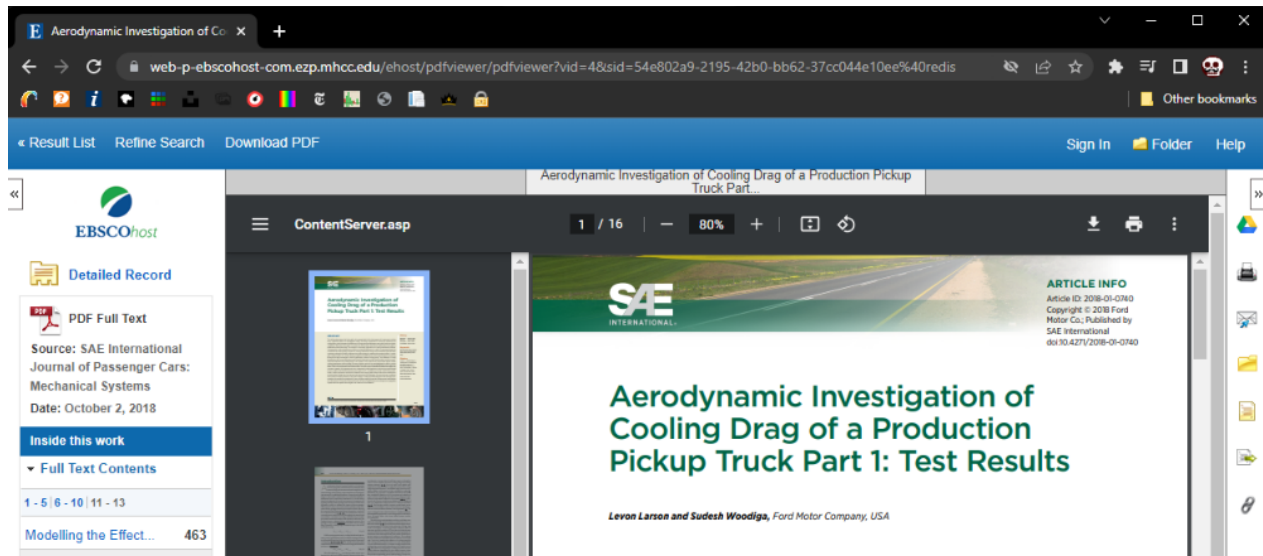
Subject Terms: [*TRUCK parts](#)
[*PICKUP trucks](#)
[*WIND tunnel testing](#)
[*WIND tunnels](#)
[*DRAG coefficient](#)

Author-Supplied Keywords: [Active grille shutters](#)
[Aerodynamic drag](#)
[Chin spoiler](#)
[Cooling drag](#)
[Pickup truck drag](#)

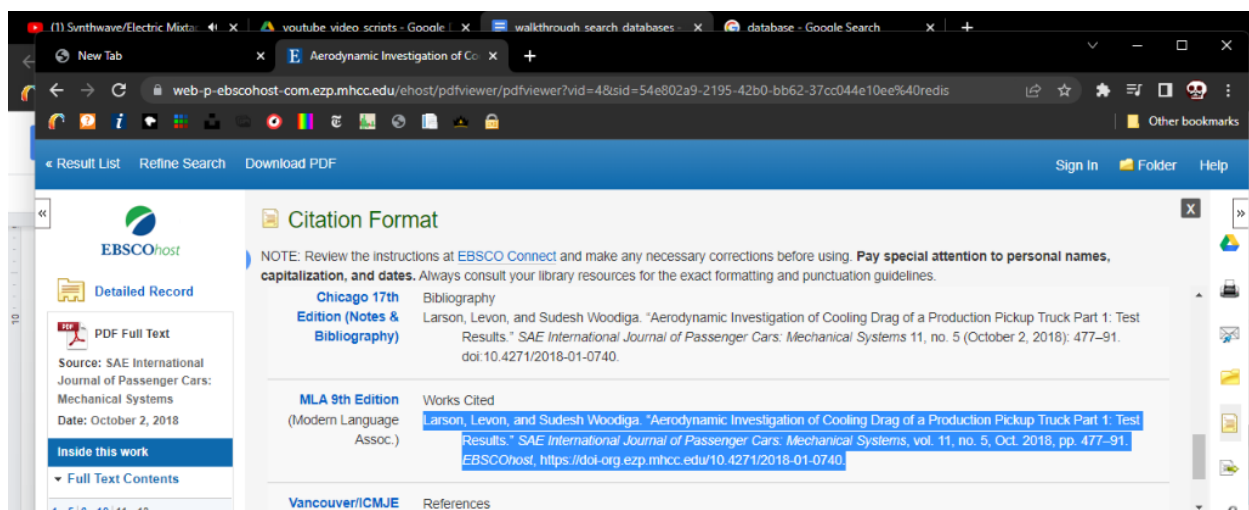
NAICS/Industry Codes: [415290](#) Other new motor vehicle parts and accessories merchant wholesalers
[423120](#) Motor Vehicle Supplies and New Parts Merchant Wholesalers
[336110](#) Automobile and light-duty motor vehicle manufacturing
[336112](#) Light **Truck** and Utility Vehicle Manufacturing

Abstract: The airflow that enters the front grille of a ground vehicle for the purpose of component cooling has a significant effect on aerodynamic drag. This drag component is commonly referred to as cooling drag, which denotes the difference in drag measured between open grille and closed grille conditions. When the front grille is closed, the airflow that would have entered the front grille is redirected around the body. This airflow is commonly referred to as cooling interference airflow. Consequently, cooling interference airflow can lead to differences in vehicle component drag; this component of cooling drag is known as cooling interference drag. One mechanism that has been commonly utilized to directly influence the cooling drag, by reducing the cooling airflow, is active grille shutters (AGS). For certain design conditions

Find and click the **Cite** icon at the right edge of the screen (it looks like a tiny sheet of paper).



Scroll down the choices to find the **MLA citation** for this article.



(how to copy the database's citation)

Copy the citation (**only copy the highlighted part exactly as shown in the image above. Don't copy the "Works Cited" line or anything else, otherwise it will throw an error and you will not get your flag**), and paste it in the Exercise 4 field in the questionnaire. If you did everything correctly, you will find the flag. Copy the flag and paste it in the **Flag box** to capture the flag.

Congratulations! You have found an article in the library databases.