

How to Find Books Using STC Library's Online Catalog

Our online catalog helps you find materials available at any of the STC libraries located at the Pecan, Mid-Valley, Starr County, Nursing & Allied Health, and Technology Campuses. You can find books, magazines, academic journals, newspapers, electronic books, audiotapes, videotapes, and DVDs here.

The STC Library homepage

The screenshot shows the STC Library Services homepage. A starburst graphic on the left contains the text "Start here" with an arrow pointing to the "Catalog Search" link in the main navigation area. The homepage features a search bar at the top right, navigation tabs for "Future Students", "Current Students", "Parents", "Visitors", and "Faculty / Staff", and a central grid of service links including "Catalog Search", "Database Search", "Web Resources", "Research Help", "Ask a Librarian", and "About the Library".

From a computer with Internet access.....

1. Open the web browser and find the STC Library homepage.
 - Type <http://library.southtexascollege.edu/> into the URL address box **OR**, from the STC homepage, click on the "Library" link at the top of the page.
2. Click on the "Catalog Search" link.
3. Enter your search information.
 - Using the pull-down menu on the right, you can choose to search by **words or phrase**, **author**, **title**, **subject**, **series**, or **periodical title** (see below). Use the "words or phrase" setting for a general search.
 - The "library" option allows you to select which STC library's collection you will search through.
 - Type in what you are looking for, your keywords, into the search box. Click "Search."

The catalog search portal

The diagram illustrates the search portal interface. A search box contains the keyword "hedgehog". Below it is a "Library" dropdown menu set to "ALL" and a "Power Search" button. To the right is a search type dropdown menu with "words or phrase" selected, and a "Find" button. A callout box on the left says "Type in your search keywords" with an arrow pointing to the search box. A callout box on the right says "Select search option" with an arrow pointing to the search type dropdown menu.

4. Scan the search results to find the items that you need.
 - You may receive several pages of results from your search. Read through the first few pages to ensure that you are getting a clear picture of what is available.

- If you can't find what you need from the list, try another search. This time, try different keywords or change your settings. For example, do a **subject** search instead of a **words or phrase** search. You can also see what's available at other libraries by using **WorldCat**. WorldCat searches through hundreds of libraries to tell you where materials can be found. Click on the WorldCat link on the right side of your results screen (see below). After you select an item, you will receive a list of libraries where that item can be found. Local libraries will be listed first.

Continue search in
WorldCat - Library mega-catalog that shows the nearest copies

- If you find too many items, narrow down your results with advanced searching. To do this, click on the **Power Search** link at the bottom of the search portal. Here you can limit your search by the item's published date, language, format, and location.
- Library staff members are glad to help you find resources, so please contact us if you need help.

5. Check the item's location.

- The last line of an item listing states at which STC library the book can be found, and in which section (see below). You can also find this information by clicking the "Details" button on the left side of the listing and looking under the "Holdings" tab.
- If the book you want is located at another library, you can request that item for free using the **Campus to Campus Loan Program**. Items from within the STC library system will usually arrive within 3 days from when the order is placed. Ask any library staff member for assistance with a campus to campus loan.

An item listing

Write down the call number

Search Results

words or phrase "hedgehog" search found 8 titles.

#1	<p style="margin: 0;">PG3415 .H5 B4 1993 1993</p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;"> Details The hedgehog and the fox : an essay on Tolstoy's view of history 1st <i>Elephant paperback ed.</i> Berlin, Isaiah, Sir. </p> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: small;"> Keep 2 copies available at Pecan Campus and Mid-Valley Campus </p> <p style="text-align: right; margin: 0; font-size: x-small;">100% Summary</p>	
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Check the location of the item first.

6. Write down the item's call number and locate the item on our shelves.

- The call number is a number/letter code used to organize items on our shelves. Call numbers are listed in alphabetical and numeric order and are read from left to right. All library shelves are labeled at each end with the call numbers that they contain.
 - For example, to find a book with the call number **LB 2343 .P75 1995** in the main reading room, first read the call number alphabetically and find the main reading room shelves with the call numbers beginning with **LB**. Then, go in numeric order and find the books where LB is followed by the number **2343**. Within those books, locate the items where 2343 is followed by **.P75**. Finally, most call numbers will end in the year that the item was published. Please ask for assistance if you are unable to find a book.
- **Electronic books can only be found online.** For more information on electronic books, see the handout titled "How to Access E-books."

***Let us know if you need assistance.
Have a great day!***



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ADA Statement: Individuals with disabilities requiring assistance or access to receive services should contact disABILITY Support Services at (956)872-2006.

The South Texas College Library System
 Find us on the web: <http://library.southtexascollege.edu/>

<p>Pecan Campus Building F, McAllen 3201 W. Pecan Blvd. (956) 872-8330</p> <p>Nursing & Allied Health Campus McAllen 1101 E. Vermont Ave. (956) 872-3121</p>	<p>Mid-Valley Campus Building E, Weslaco 400 N. Border (956) 447-6663</p> <p>Starr County Campus Bldg F, Rio Grande City 142 FM 3167 (956) 488-5820</p>	<p>Technology Campus Tech Bldg, McAllen 3700 W. Military Hwy (956) 872-6120</p>
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