Week 4: Reading the scientific literature (II):
An emphasis will be placed on applications of “tools” developed in the previous week.
Case studies will explore how topical areas can be researched, and how papers can be read critically. Students will be assigned topics to research and papers to read in preparation of the class meeting.

Instructors Outline

A. Small Group discussion of student-selected papers
   (small groups split-up by discipline, lead by student and faculty instructors)
   1. Introduction – everyone describes their chosen paper and why
      (i.e. how you chose it: your approach ~ electronically vs. physically going to the library)
   2. Strategies used to glean information from papers
      (Scifinder ~ topic search, Journal abstract reading/searches)
   3. Difficulties (and solutions)
      (Your ease or difficulties either electronically or at the library)
   4. Where do you go next?

B. Journal beauty contest- Impact Factors
   o Importance of Science and Nature
      (Sciencewatch hand-out of journal rankings)
   o Hand-out of journal call numbers
      (Ask librarian for a list of chem. Journals with a call number index)
   o Hand-out of citations

C. Others sources of information: SEMINARS, MEETINGS, etc.
   o Our university (other departments)
   o Other universities
   o National/ International Research conferences

D. 3PM- Break

E. Visit by librarian (Mary Foppiano)

F. Whole-group discussion of Suarez and Merz paper: JACS 2001, 123(31) 7687-7690
   1. Good Features
   2. Shortcomings
   3. Difficulty in understanding
   4. Citation history

G. Concluding remarks