ISearch mini-lesson - Middle School/High School

Goal: Students understand filtering, subjects and keywords.

Procedure: Imagine that you want your students to explore whether or not genetically modified foods are safe.

- **Brainstorm** search terms you might use for this topic. (Be sure to generate the term GMO).
- **Search** for GMOs in ISearch.
  - You might not get any results in some tabs.
  - Ask your students: “Does that seem odd? GMOs are a hot topic! Shouldn't there be lots of results?”
  - Lead the discussion to the conclusion that GMO is a common abbreviation for "genetically modified organisms" and in search engines and in library databases, you'll get better results if you use keywords or phrases rather than abbreviations.
- **Search** for genetically modified in ISearch.
  - Do you have more search results with genetically modified than with GMO's?
  - Have your students explain why there are different results.
- **Explore** the ISearch environment.
  - Are you finding results that would help decide if genetically modified foods are safe?
  - Use the filters to come up with additional keywords to add search term list.
- **Look** for three items in ISearch that look useful to your topic.
  - Note: The full text of any results you find are available online through ISearch.
- **Click** the View/Download button for one of your useful items and look for the "Cite" tool along the right side of the screen.
  - Help students work with the "Cite" button as they perform searches.