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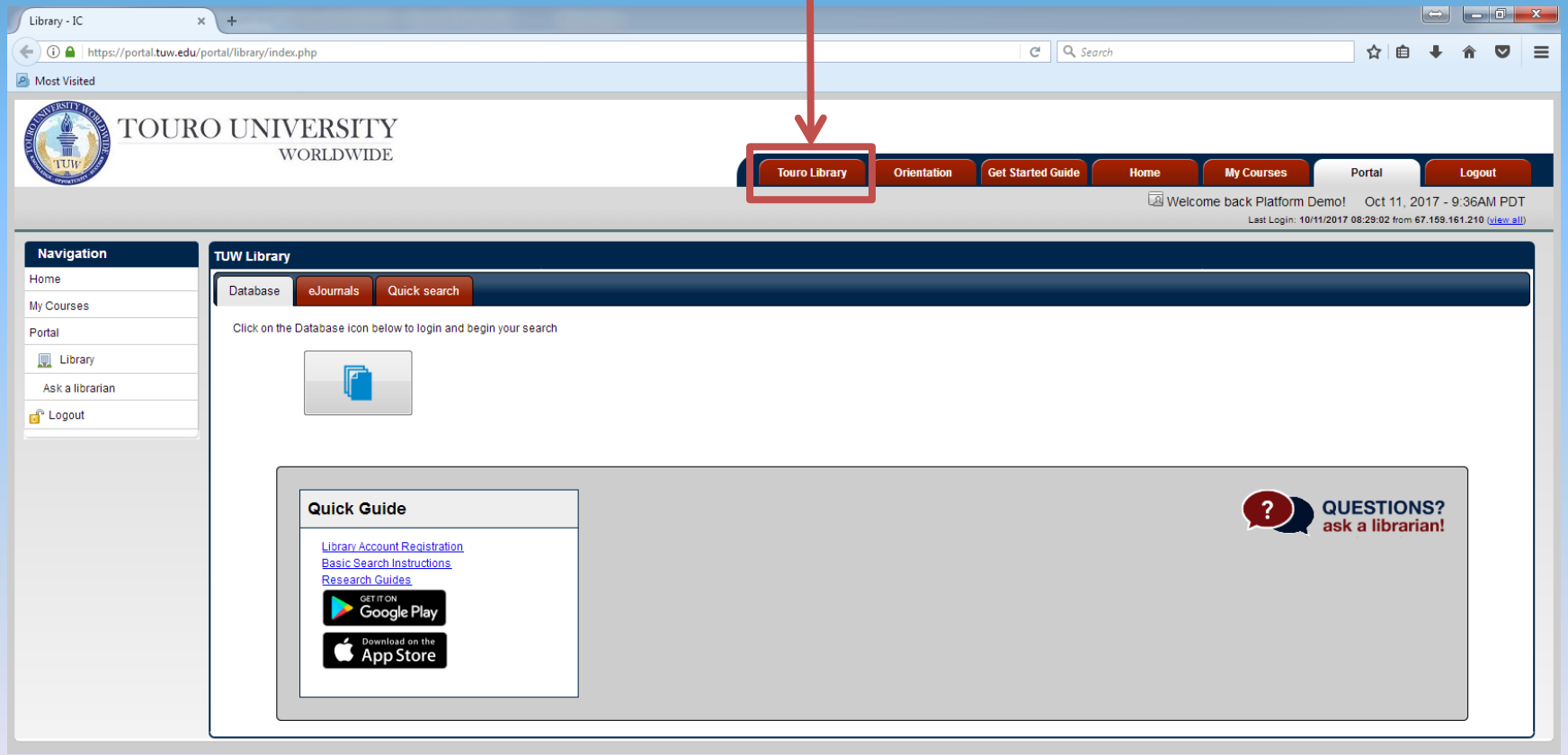

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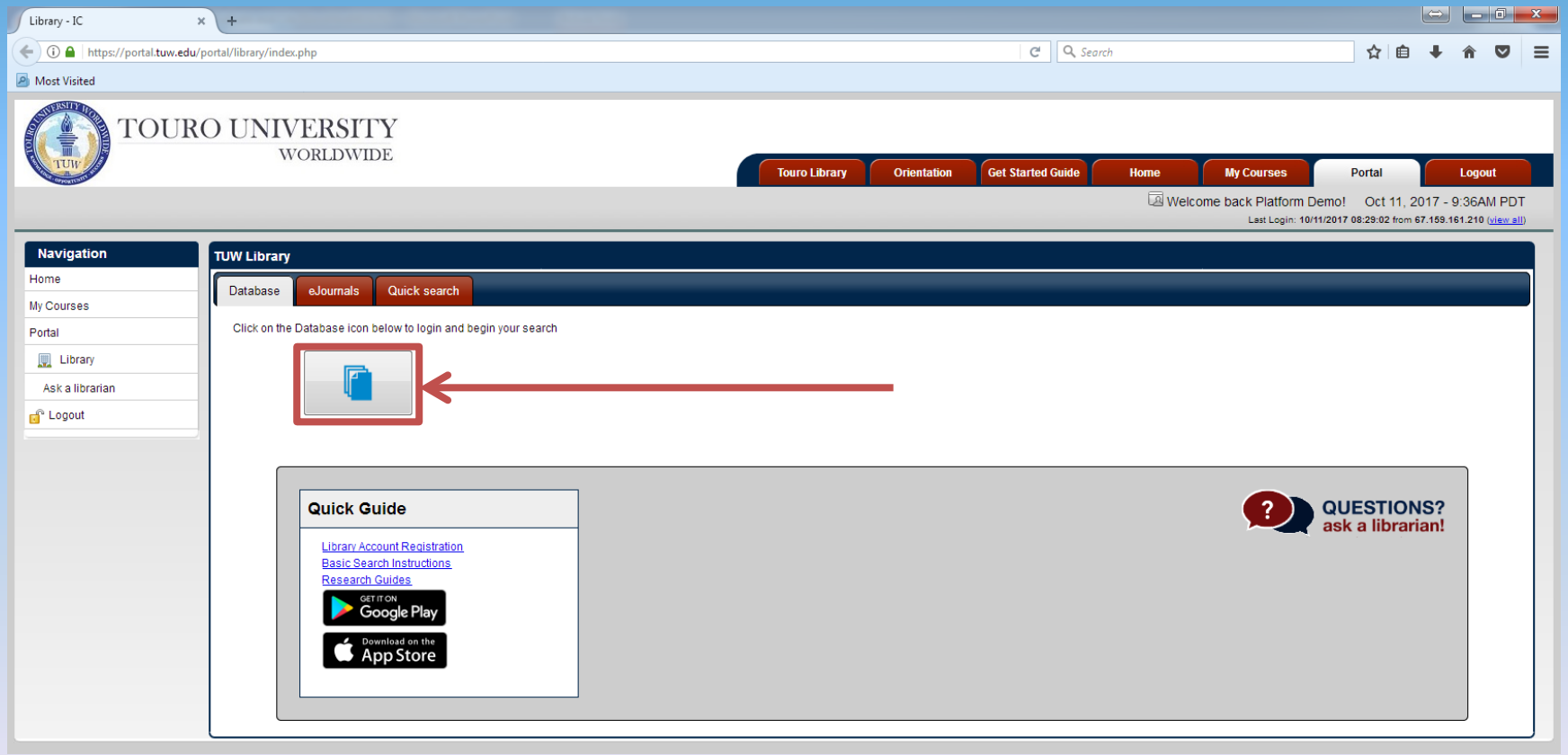

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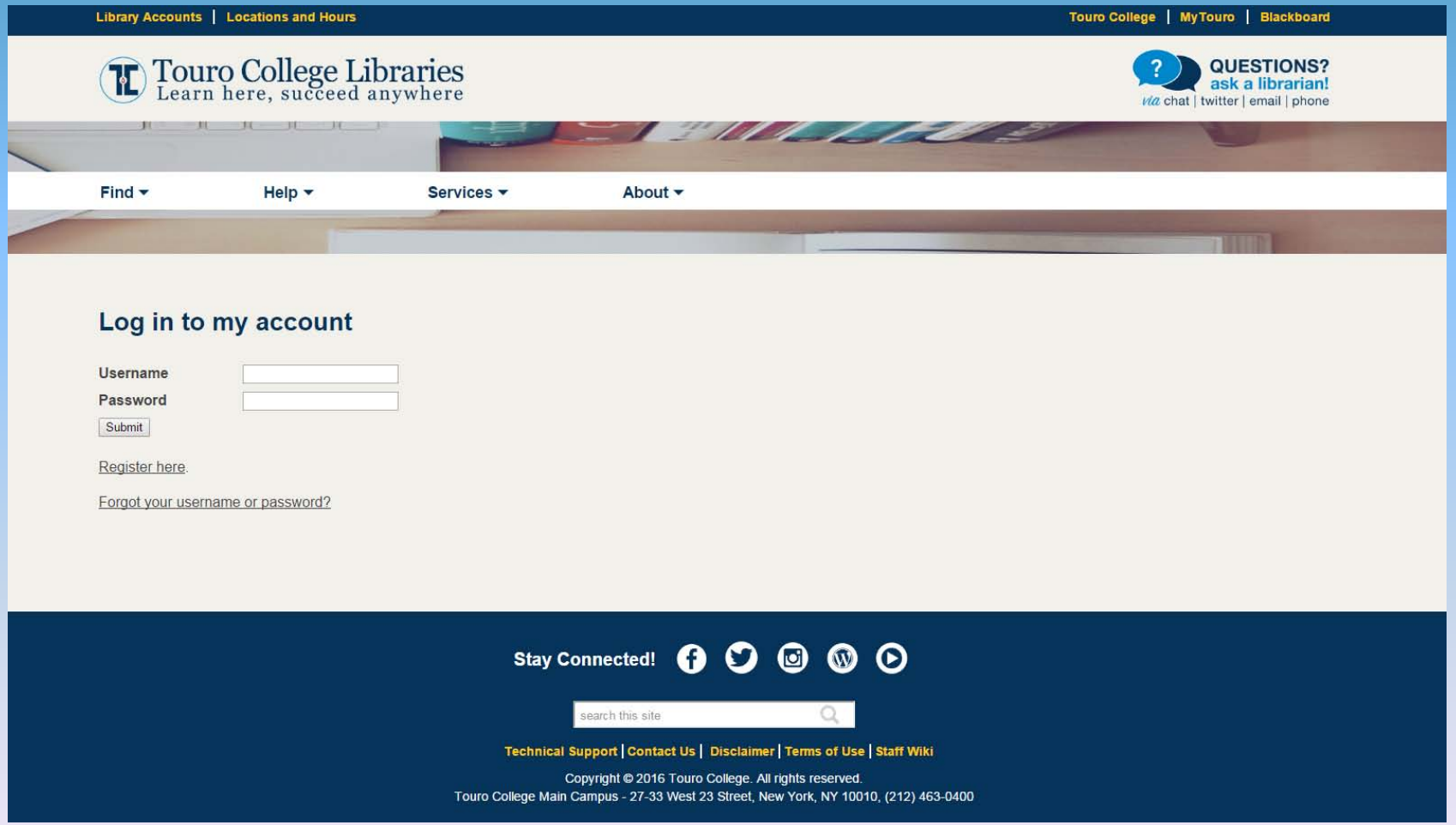

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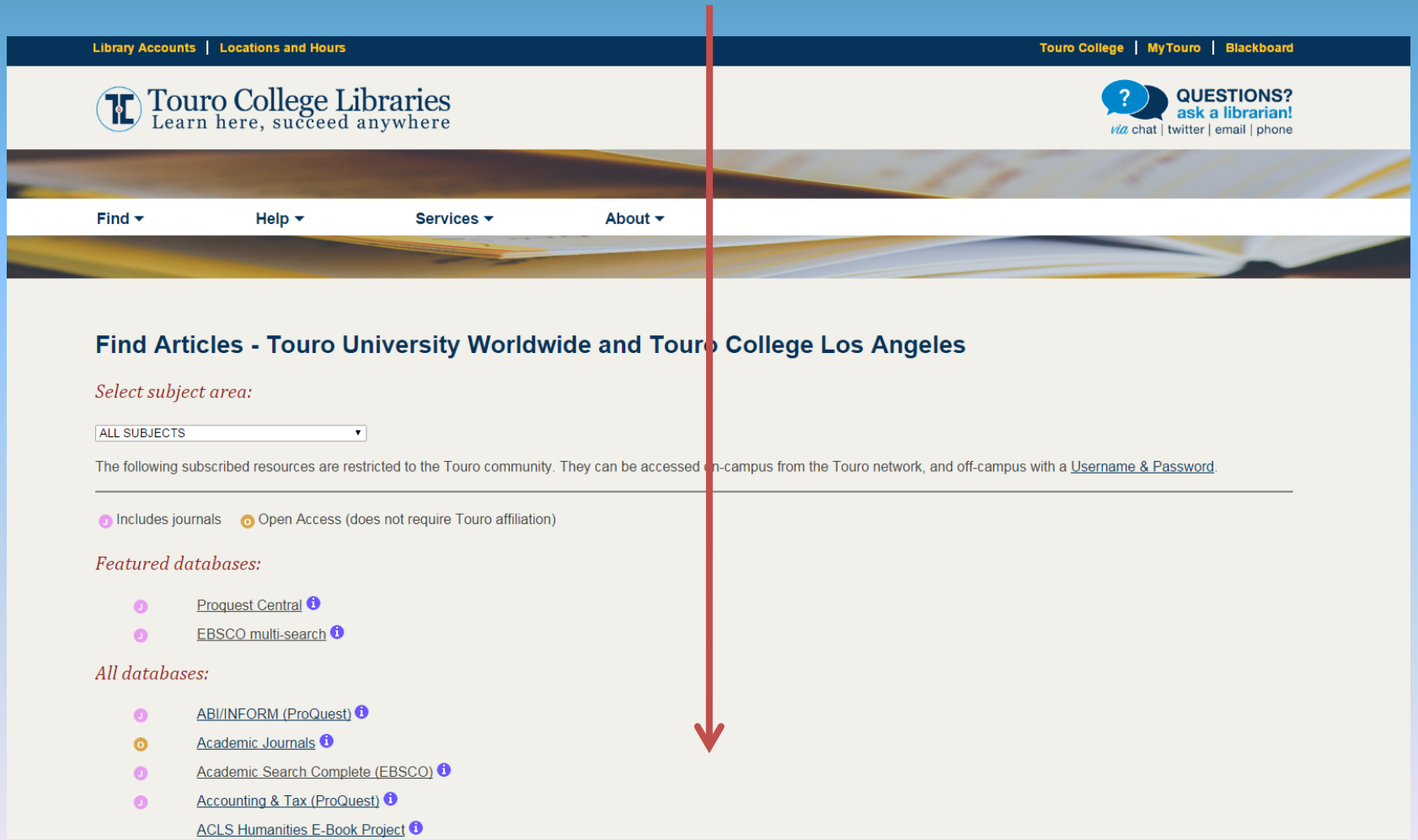

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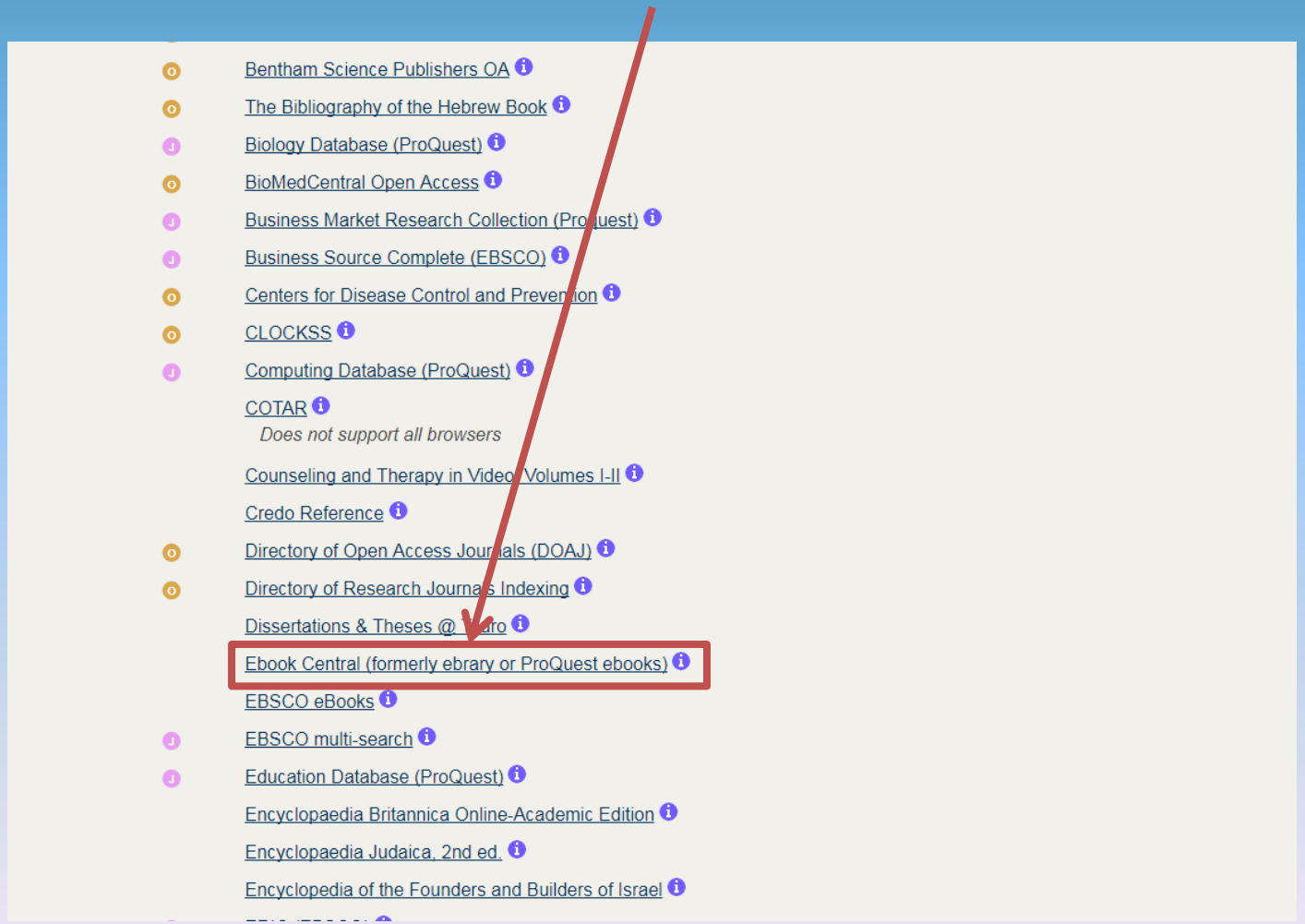

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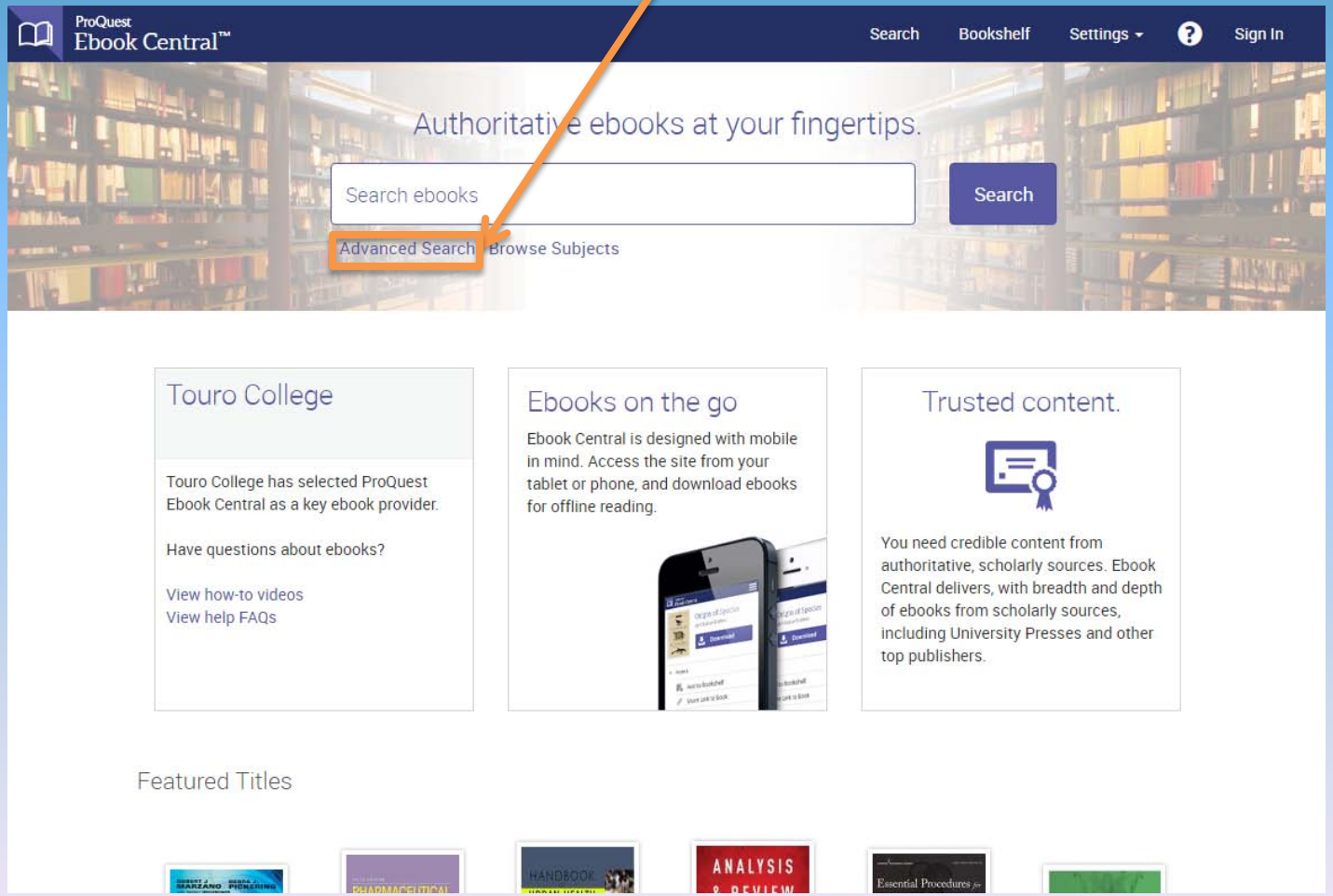

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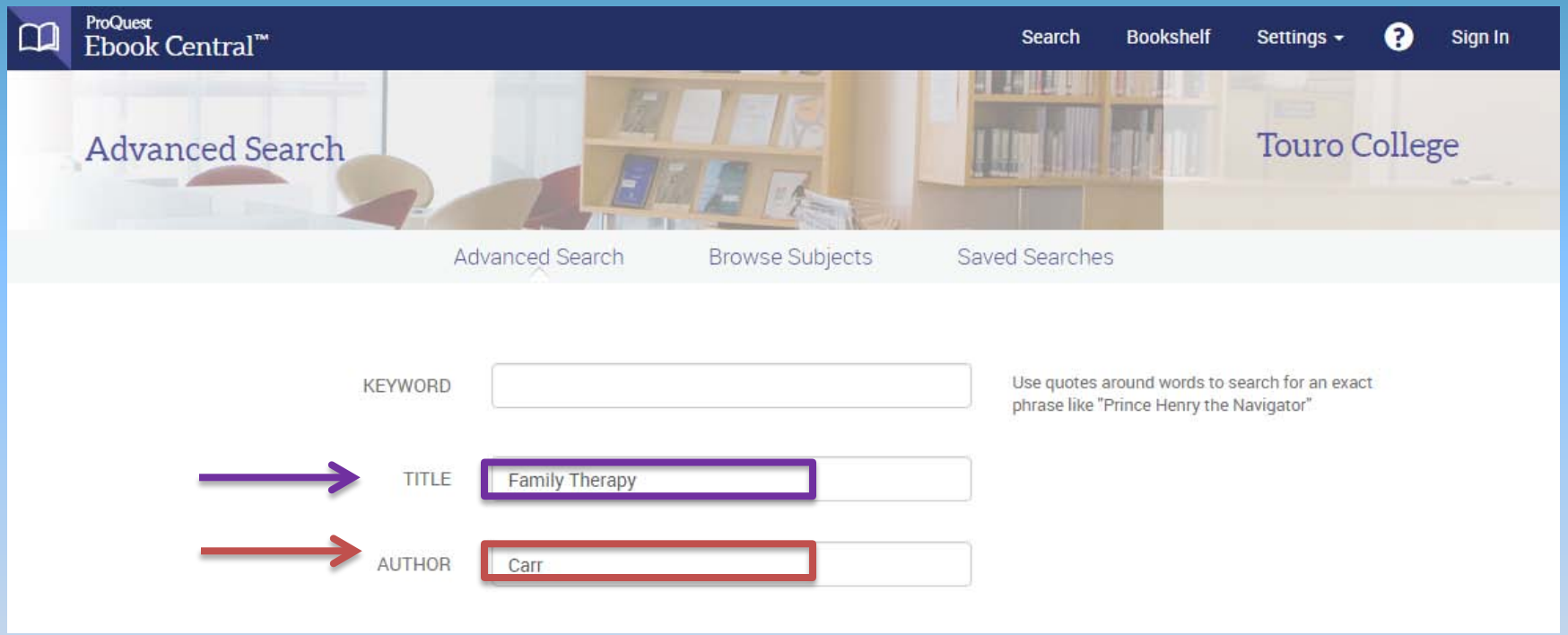

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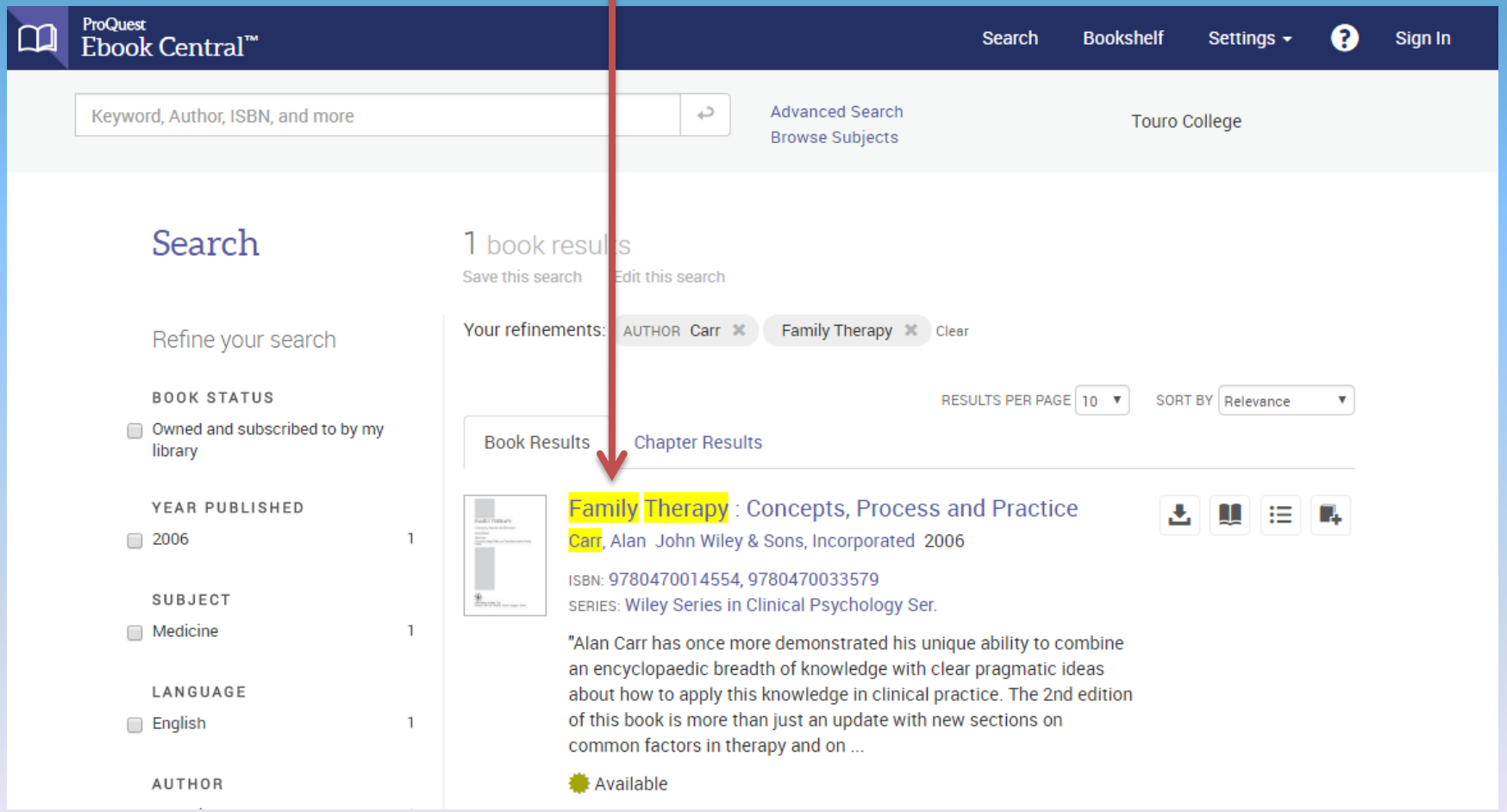

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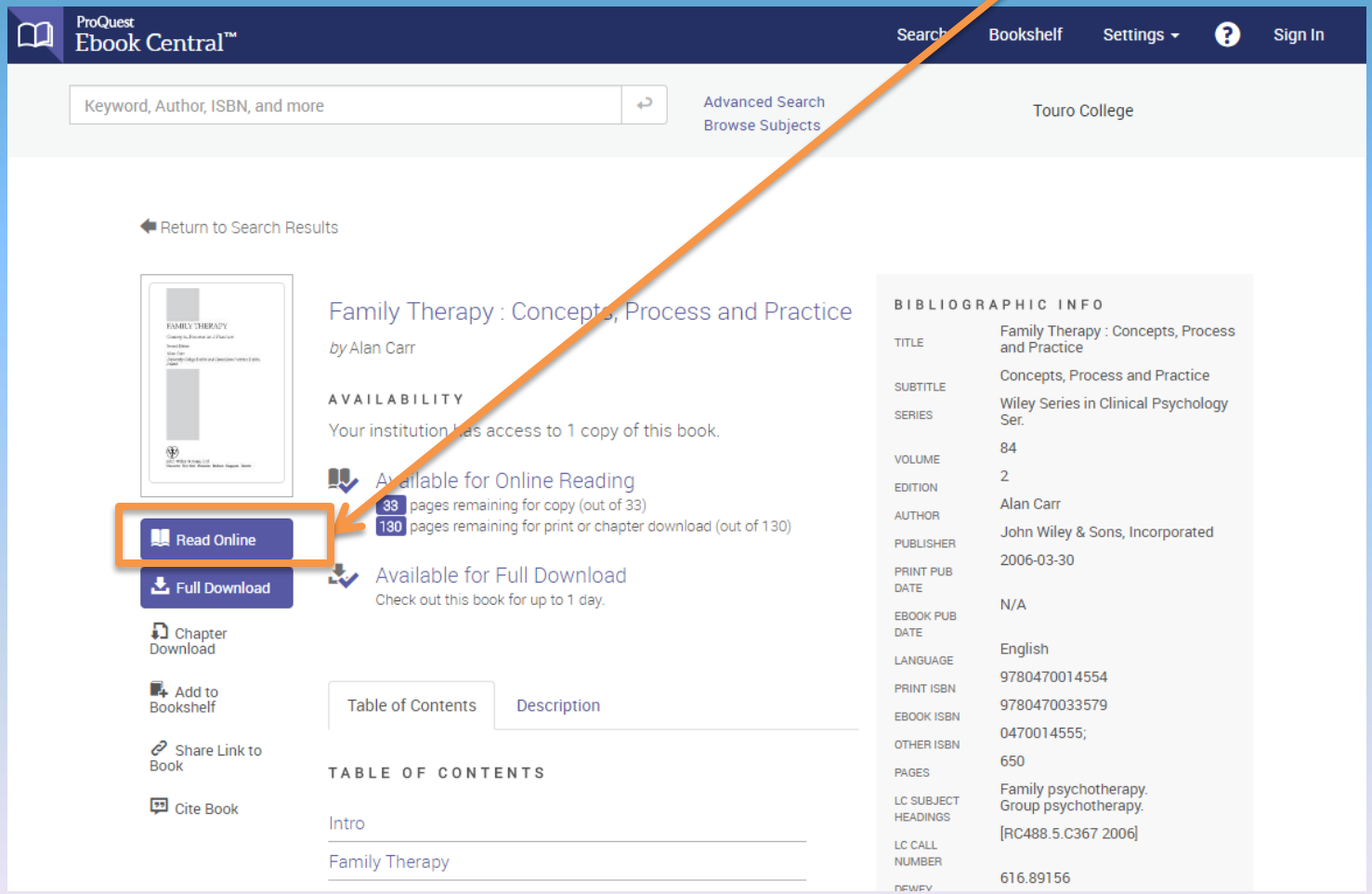

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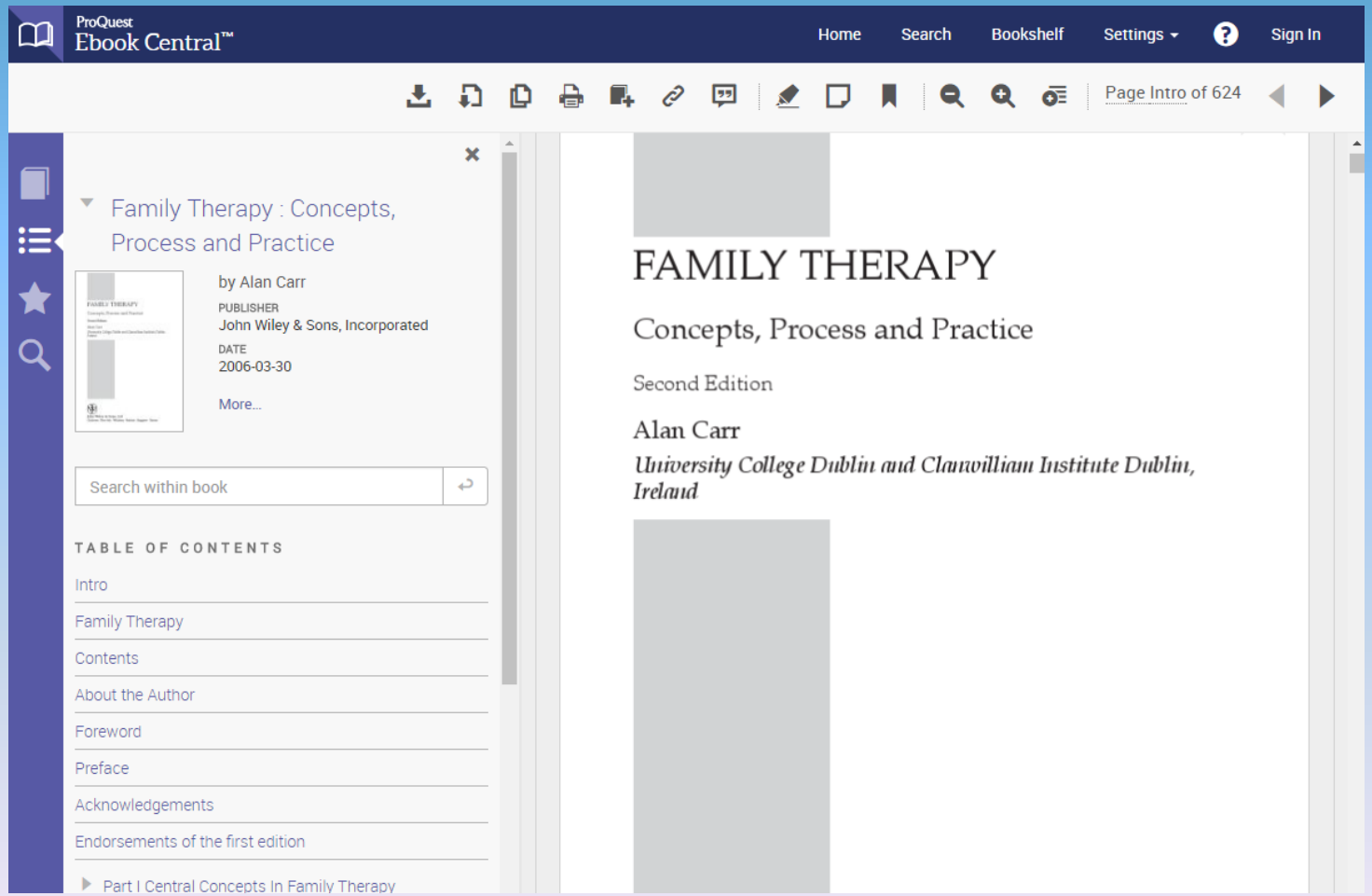

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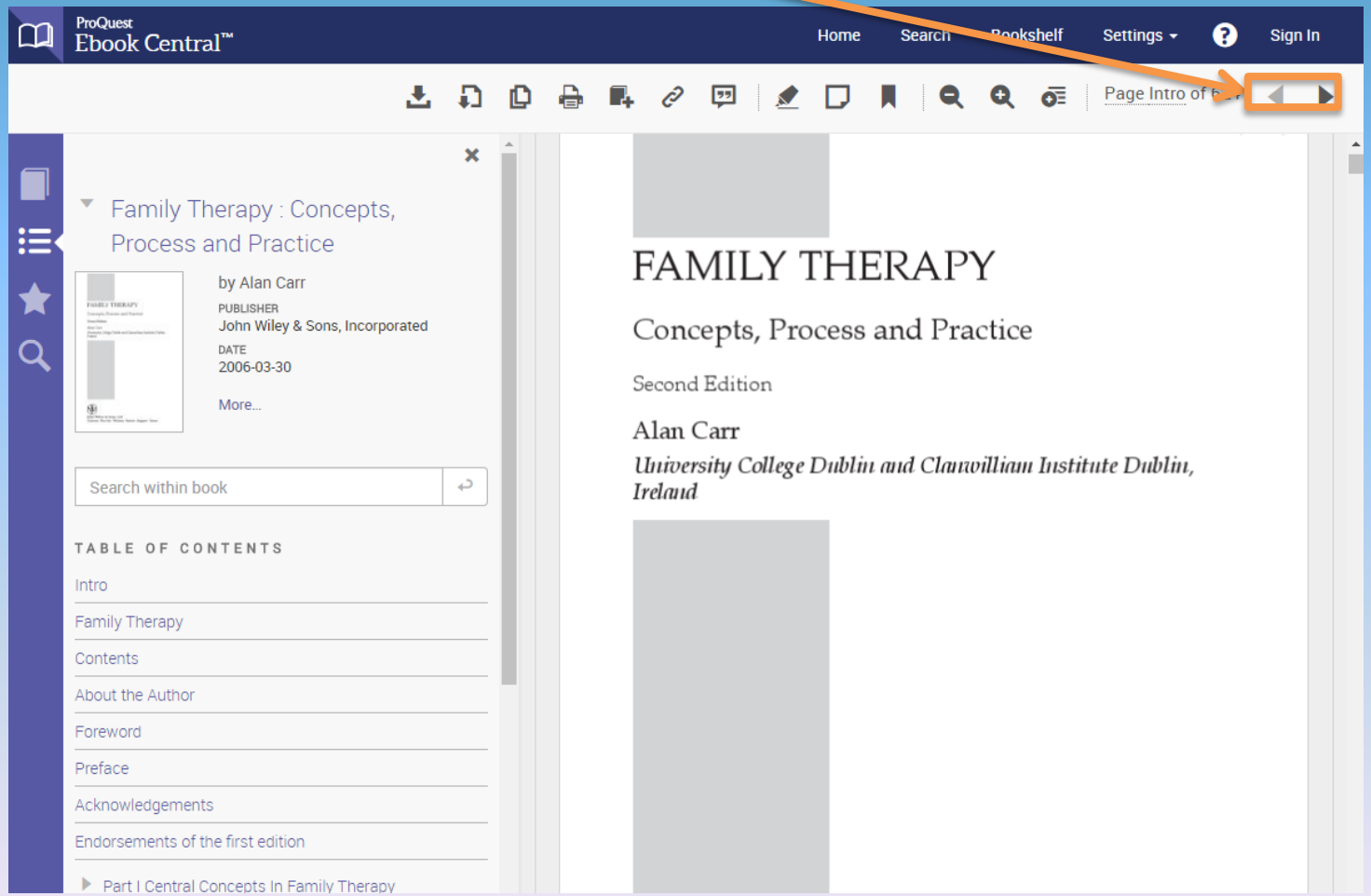

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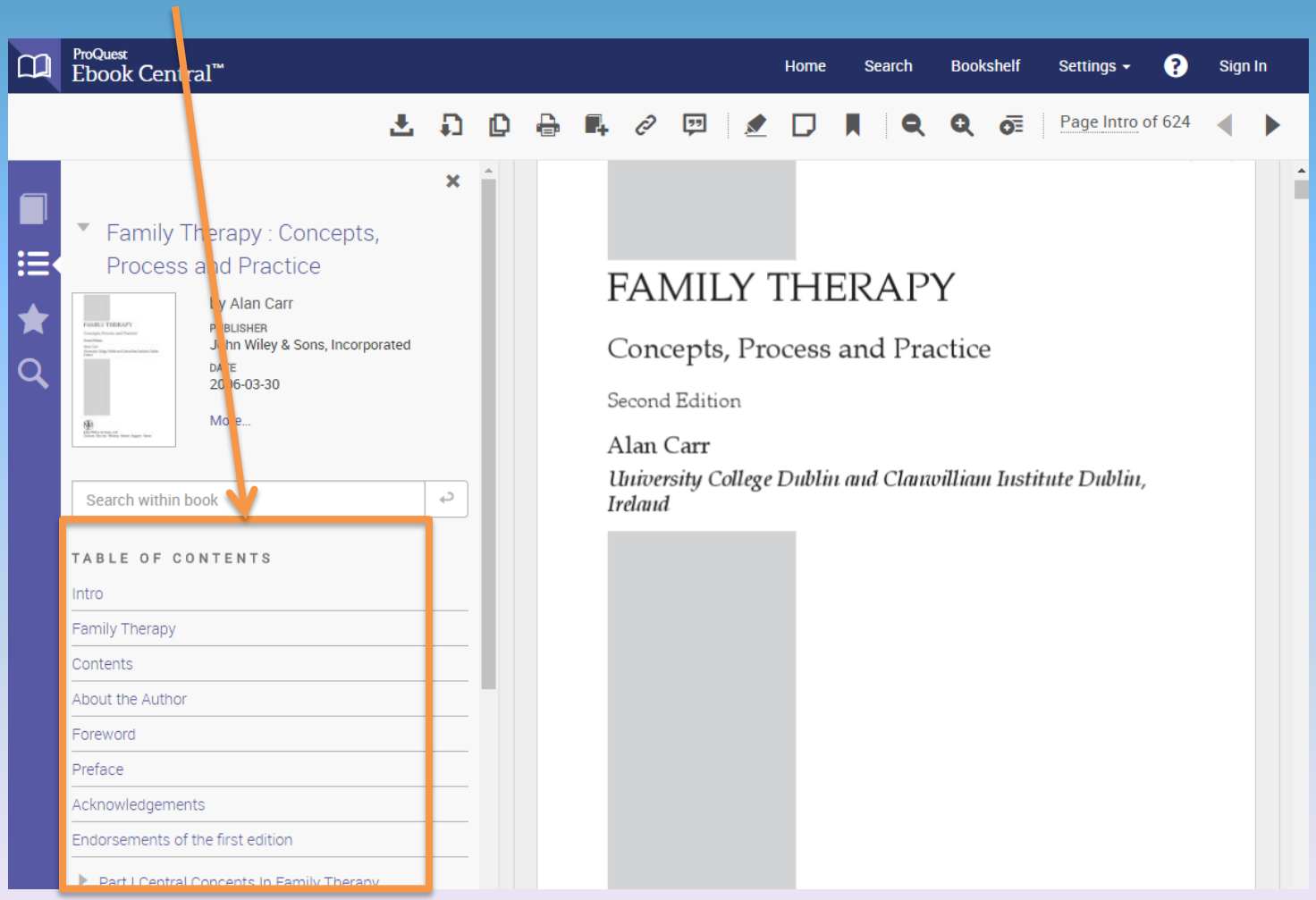

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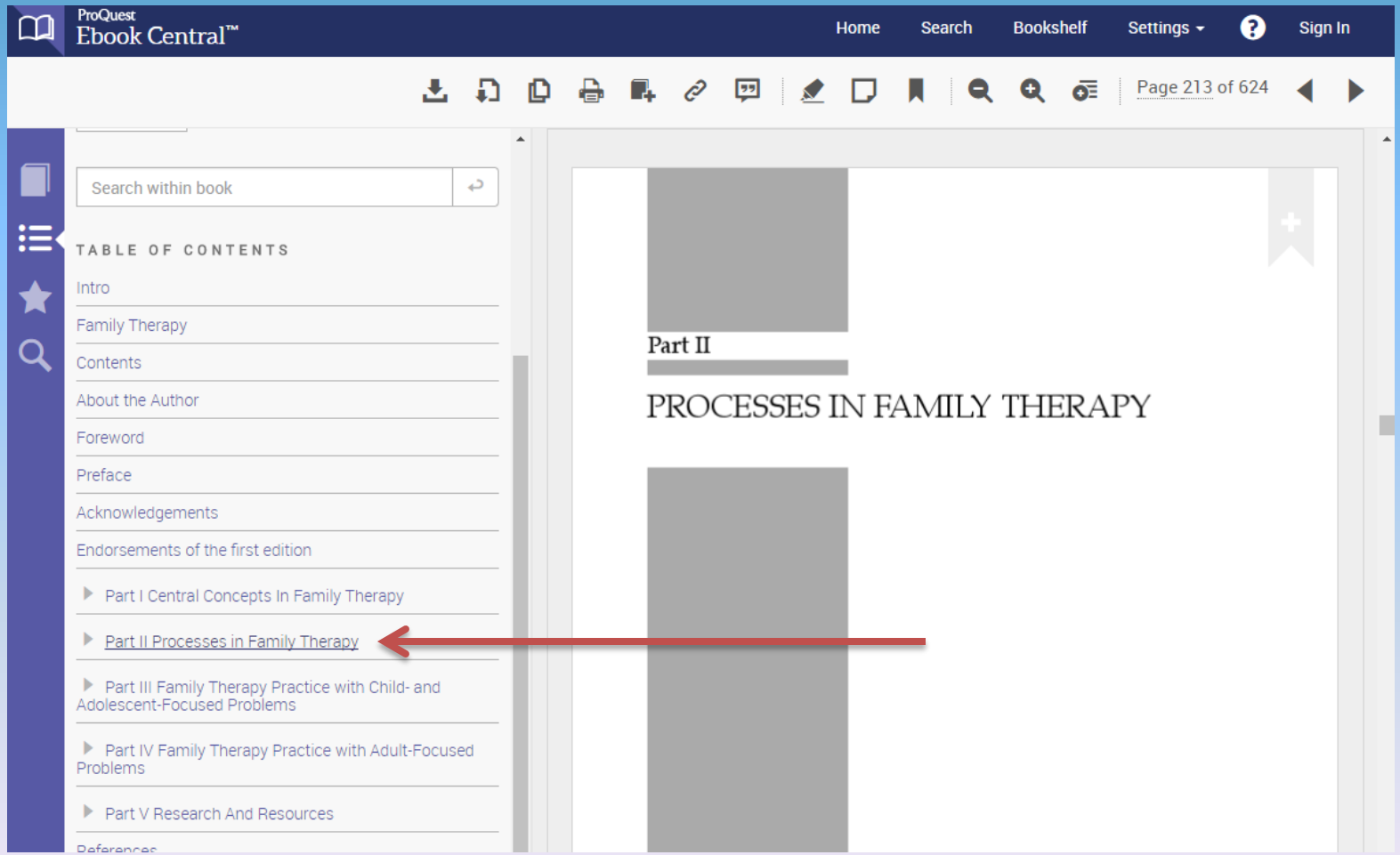

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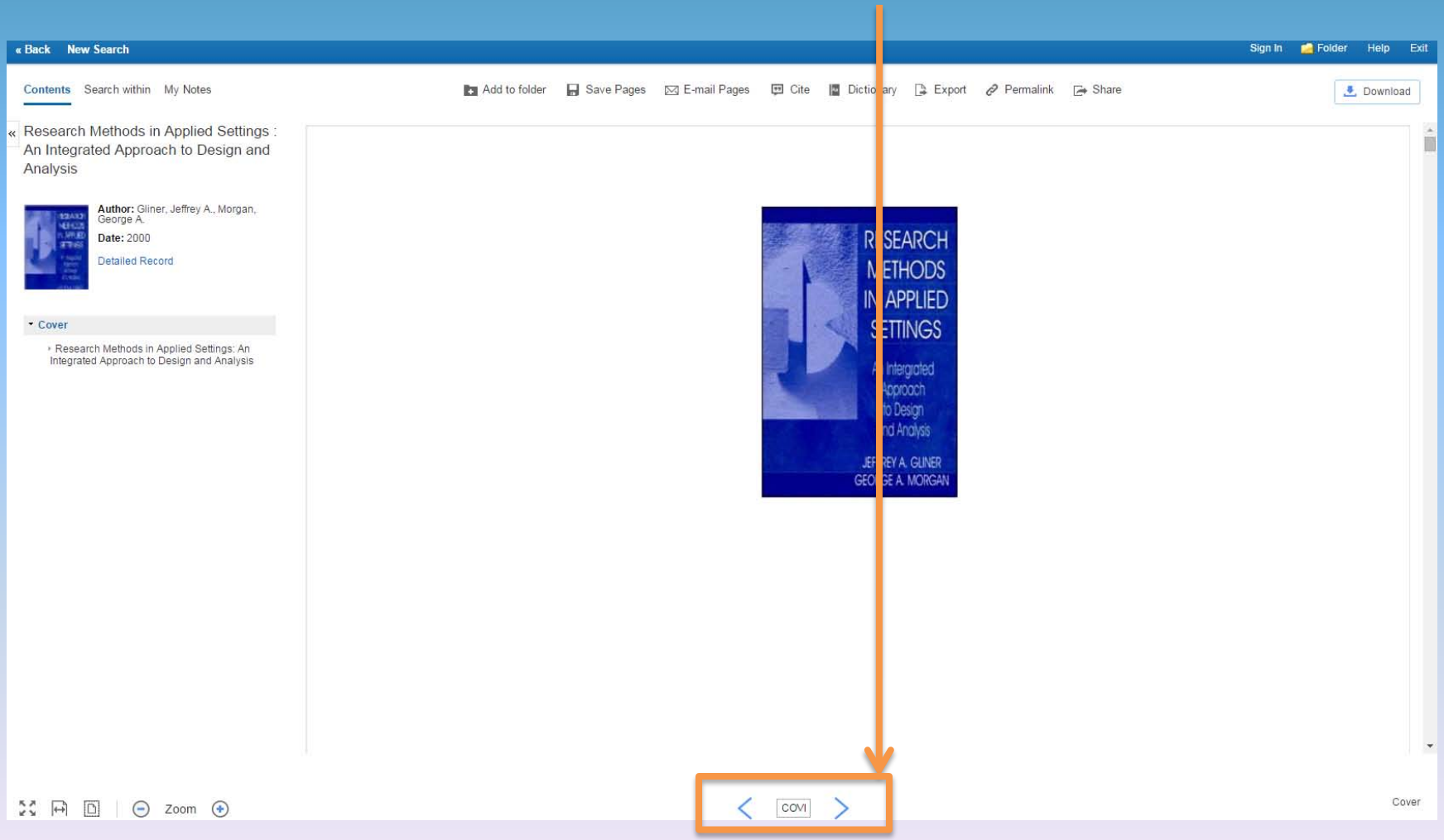

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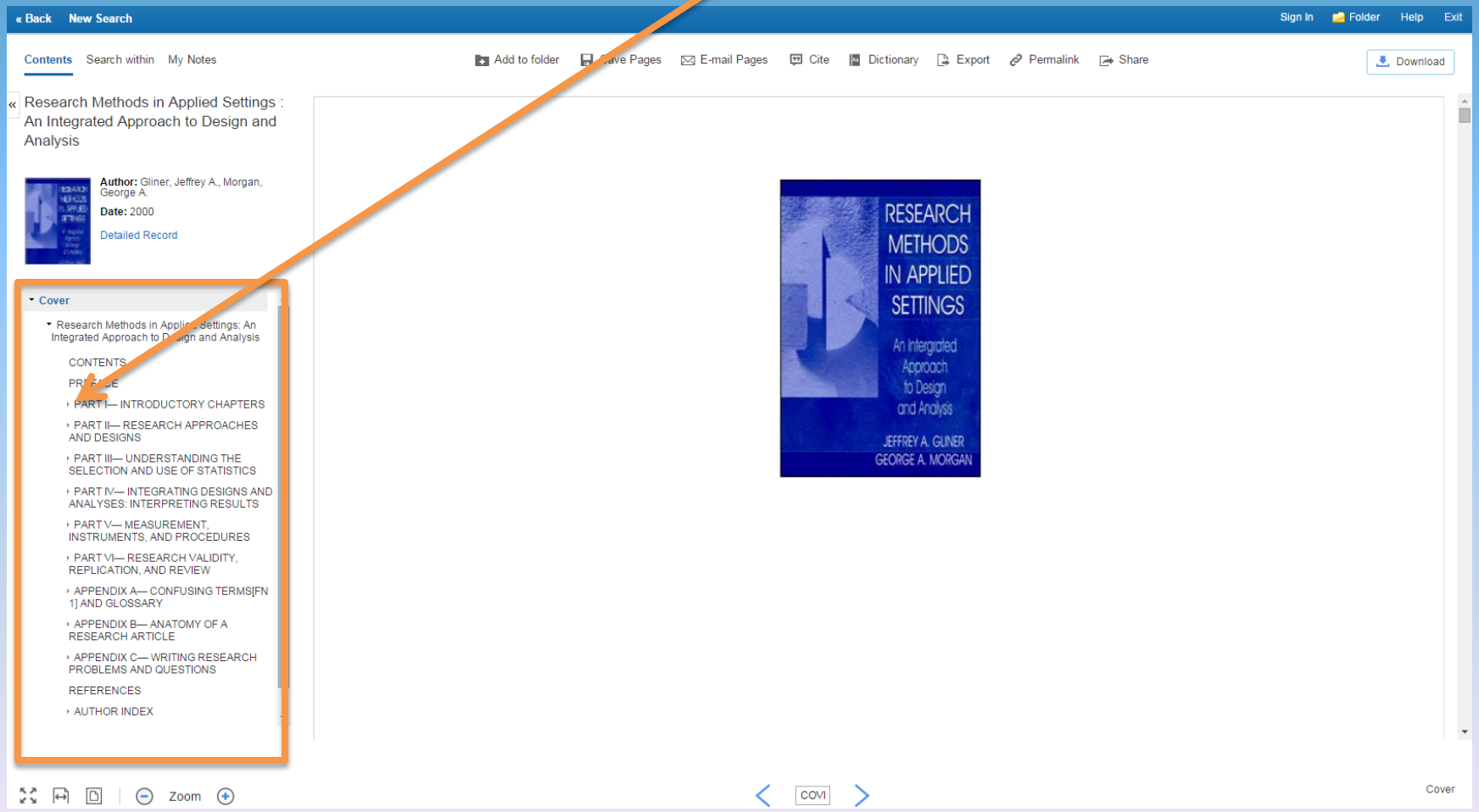

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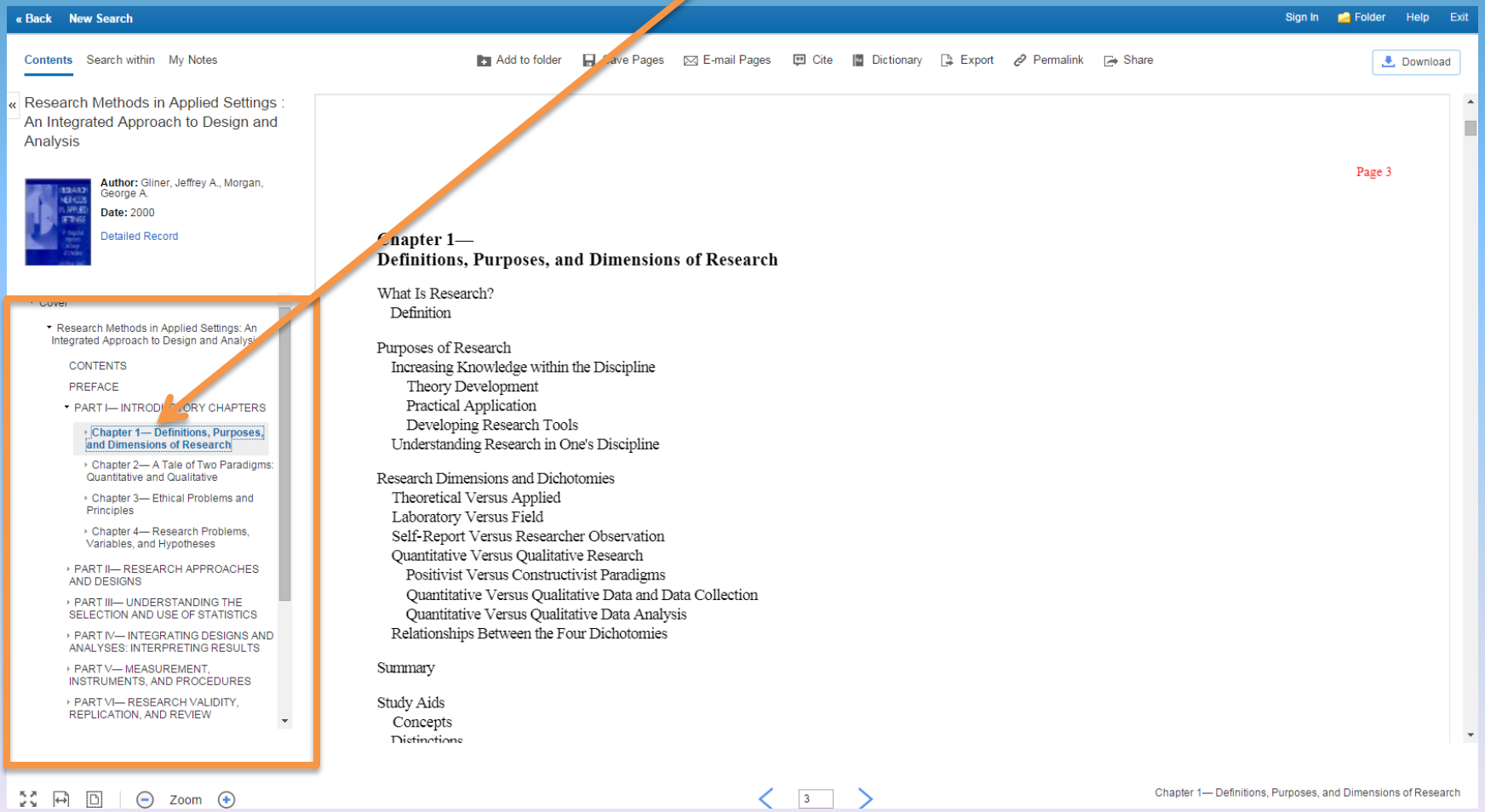

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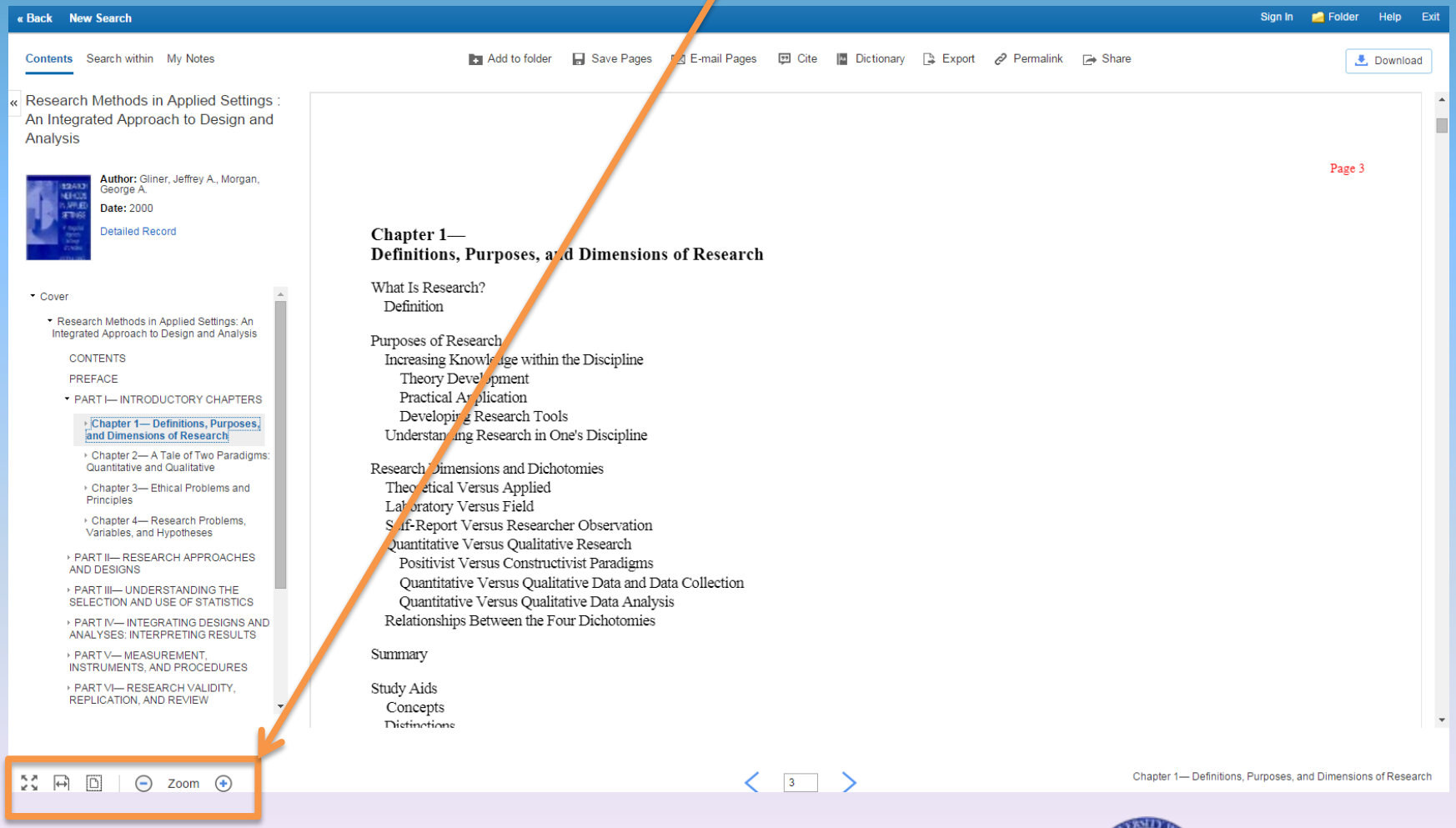

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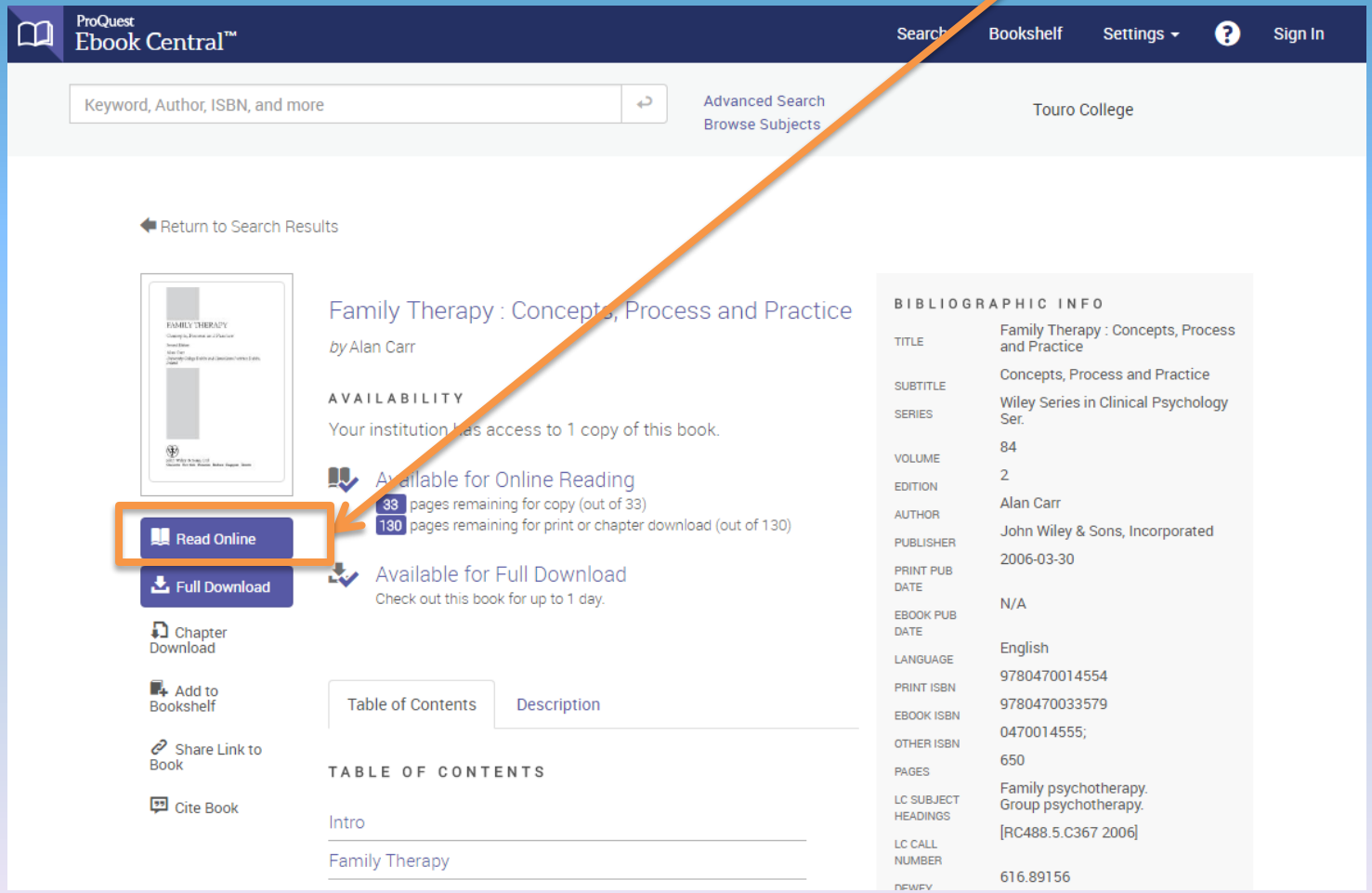

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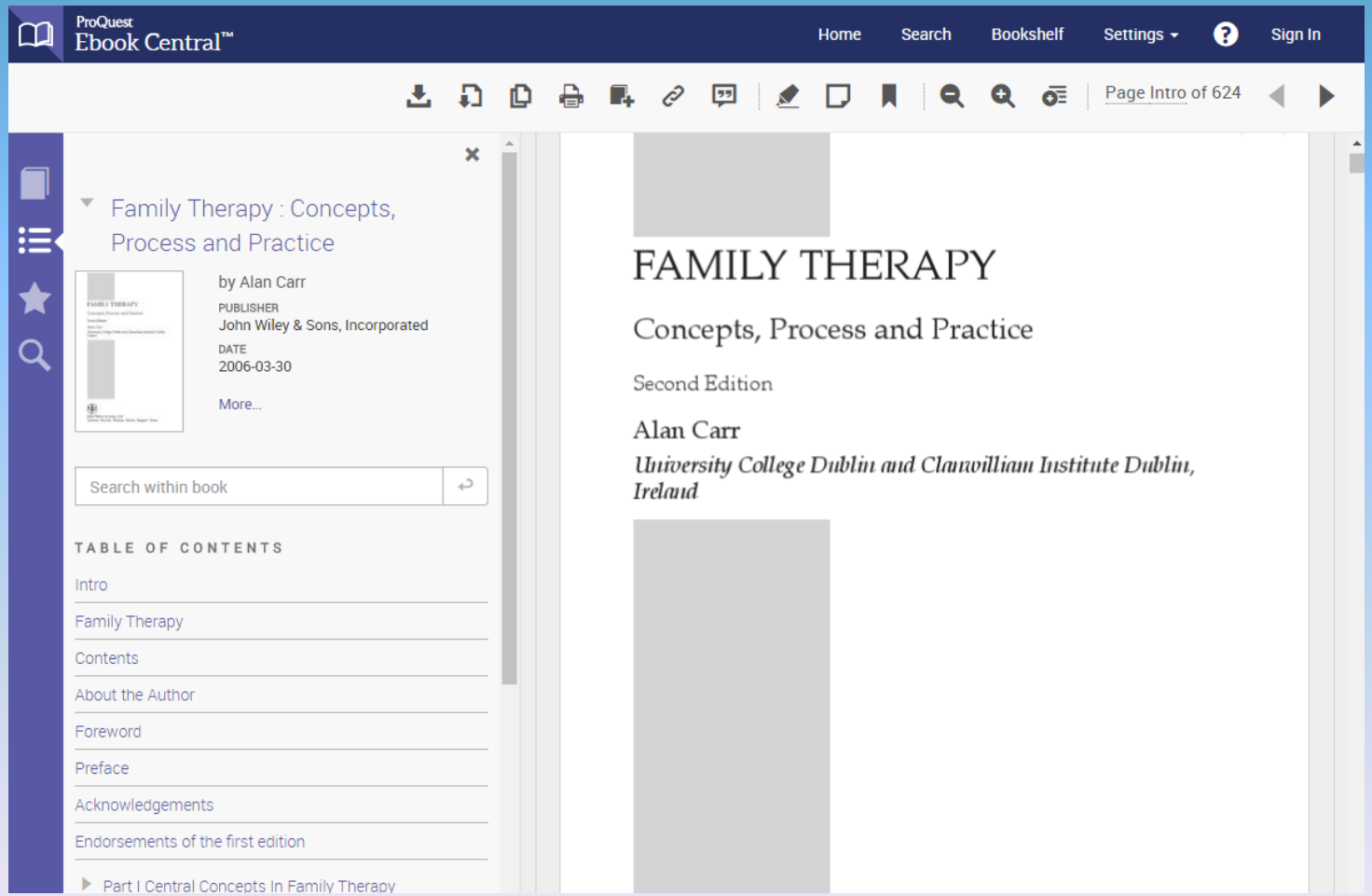

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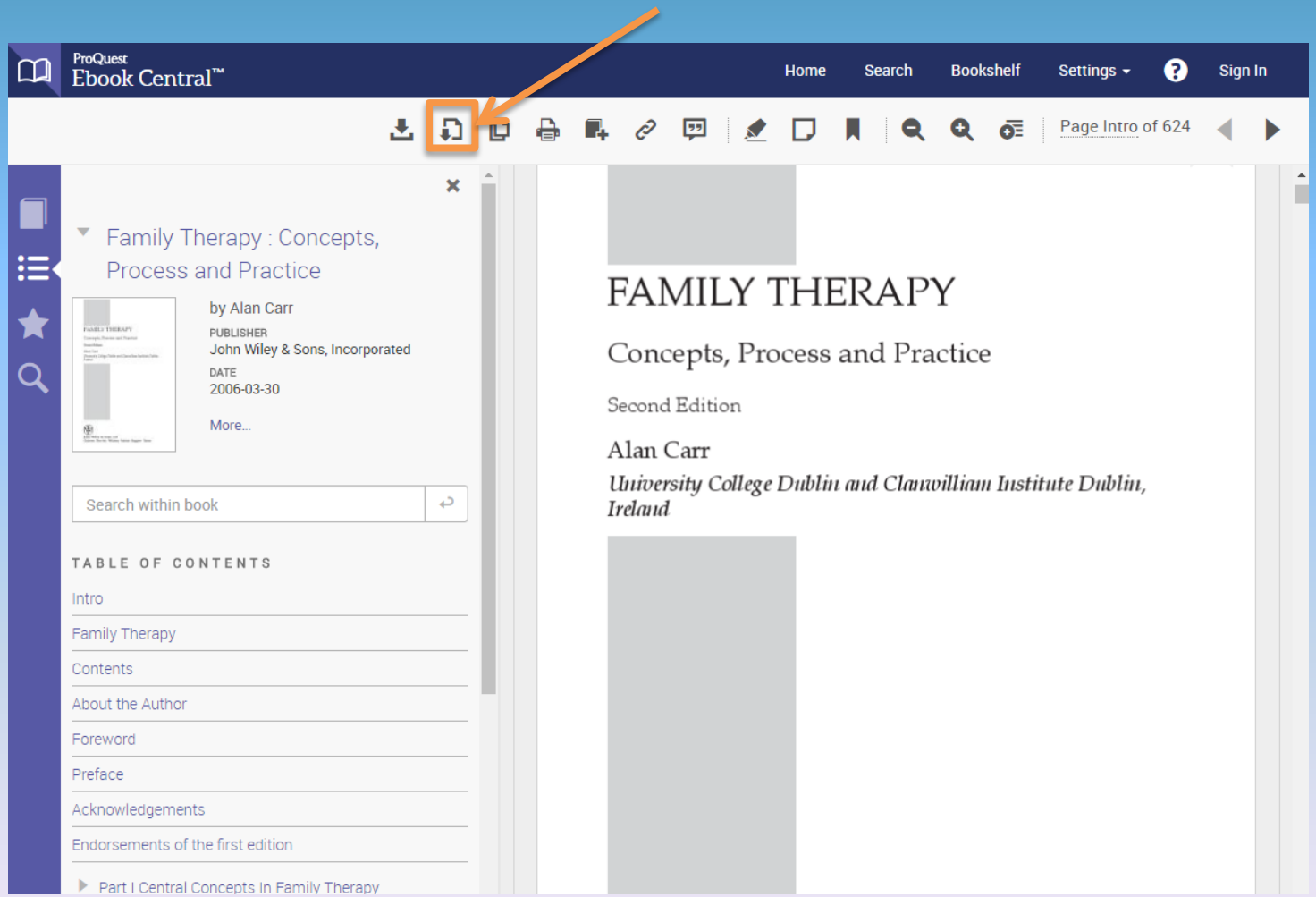

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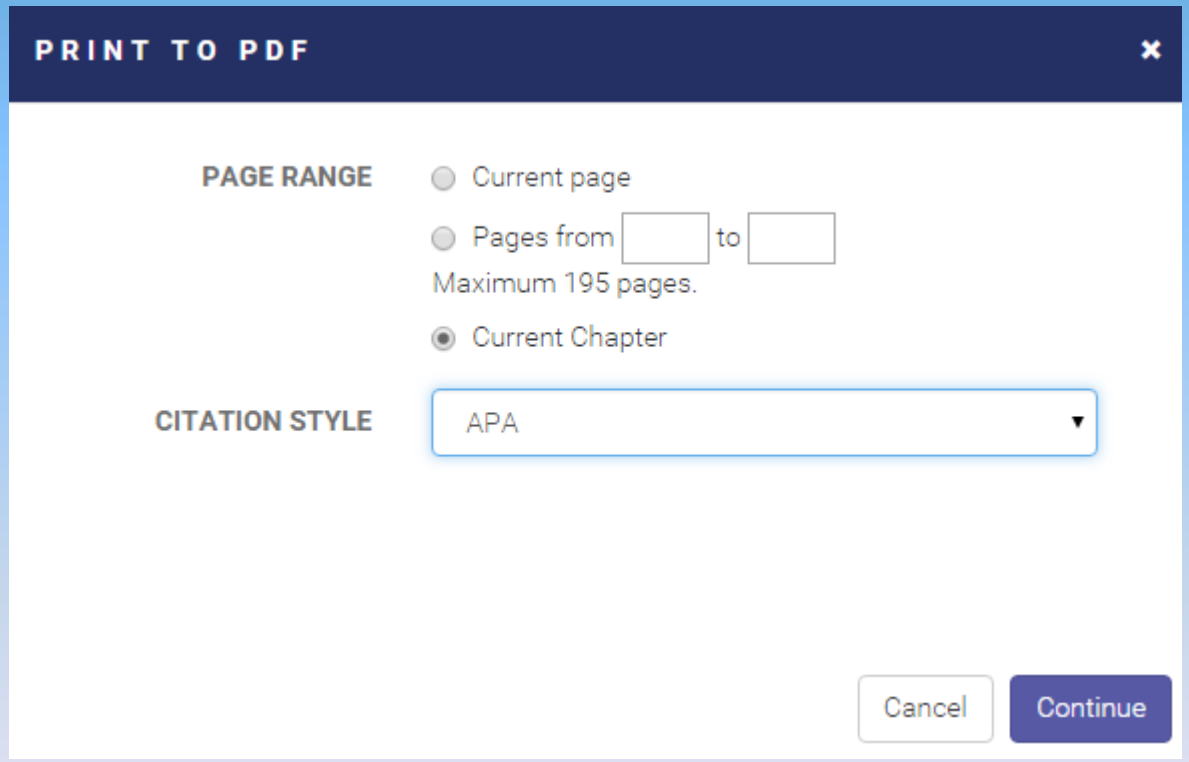

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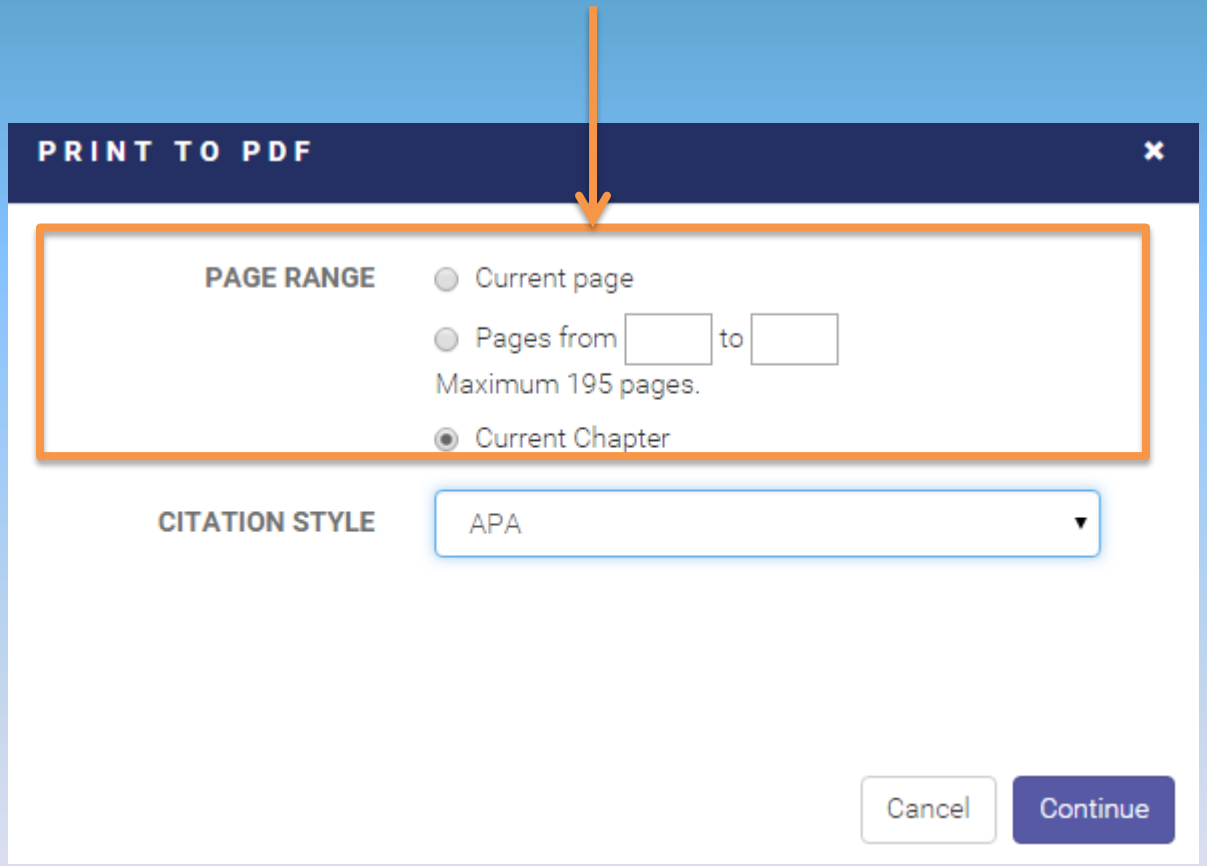

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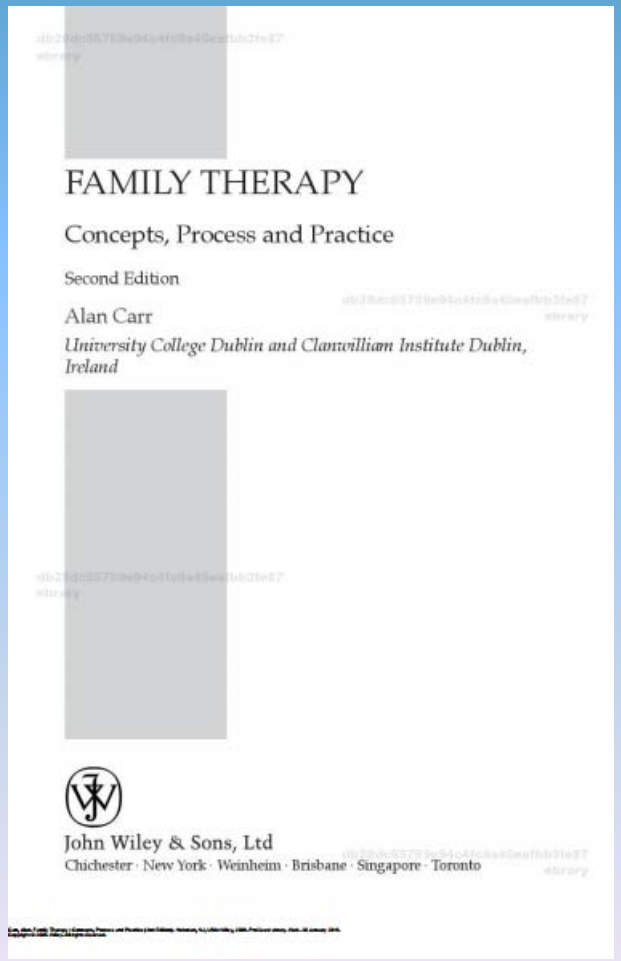

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Concepts, Process and Practice

Second Edition

Alan Carr

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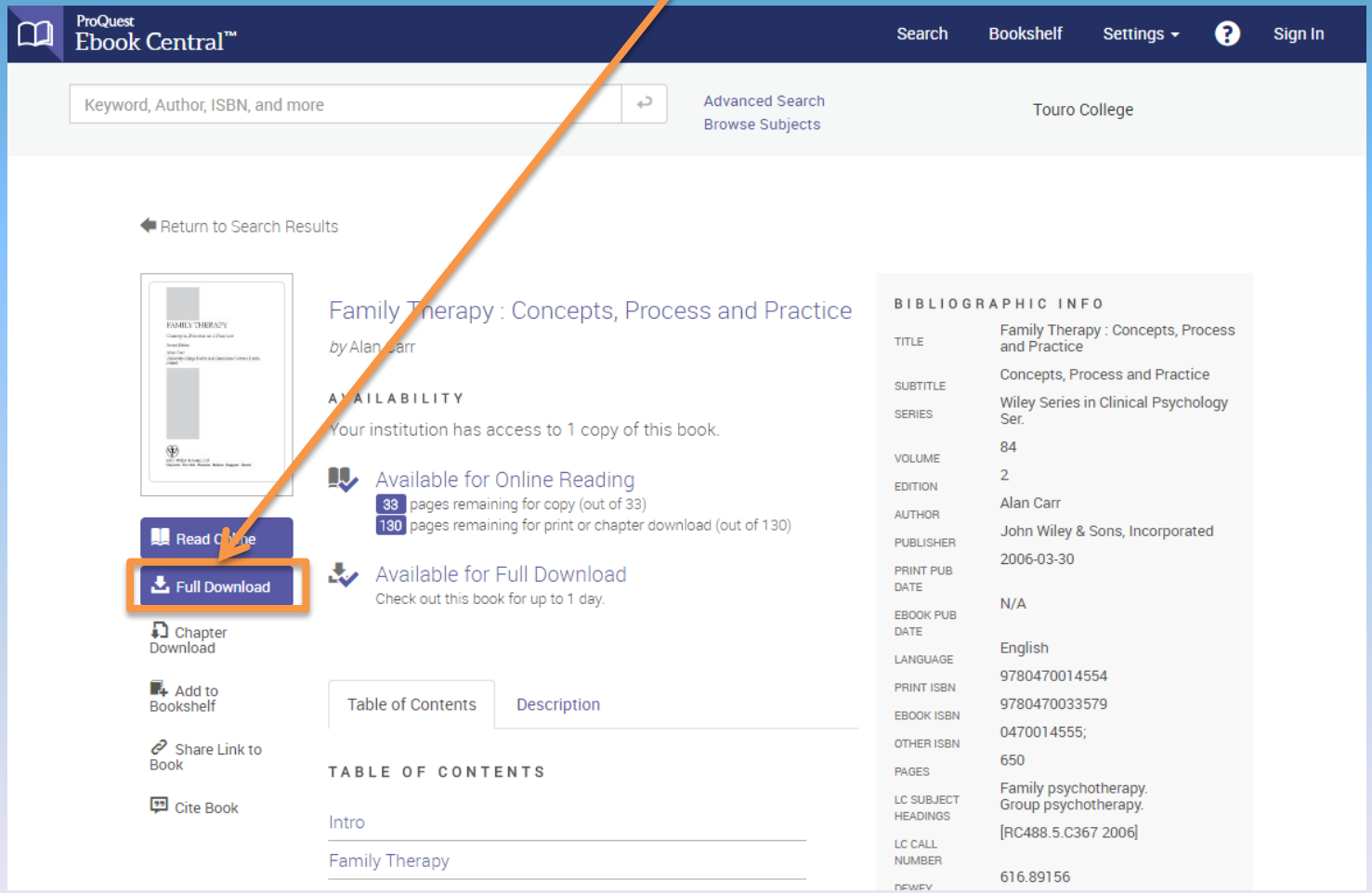

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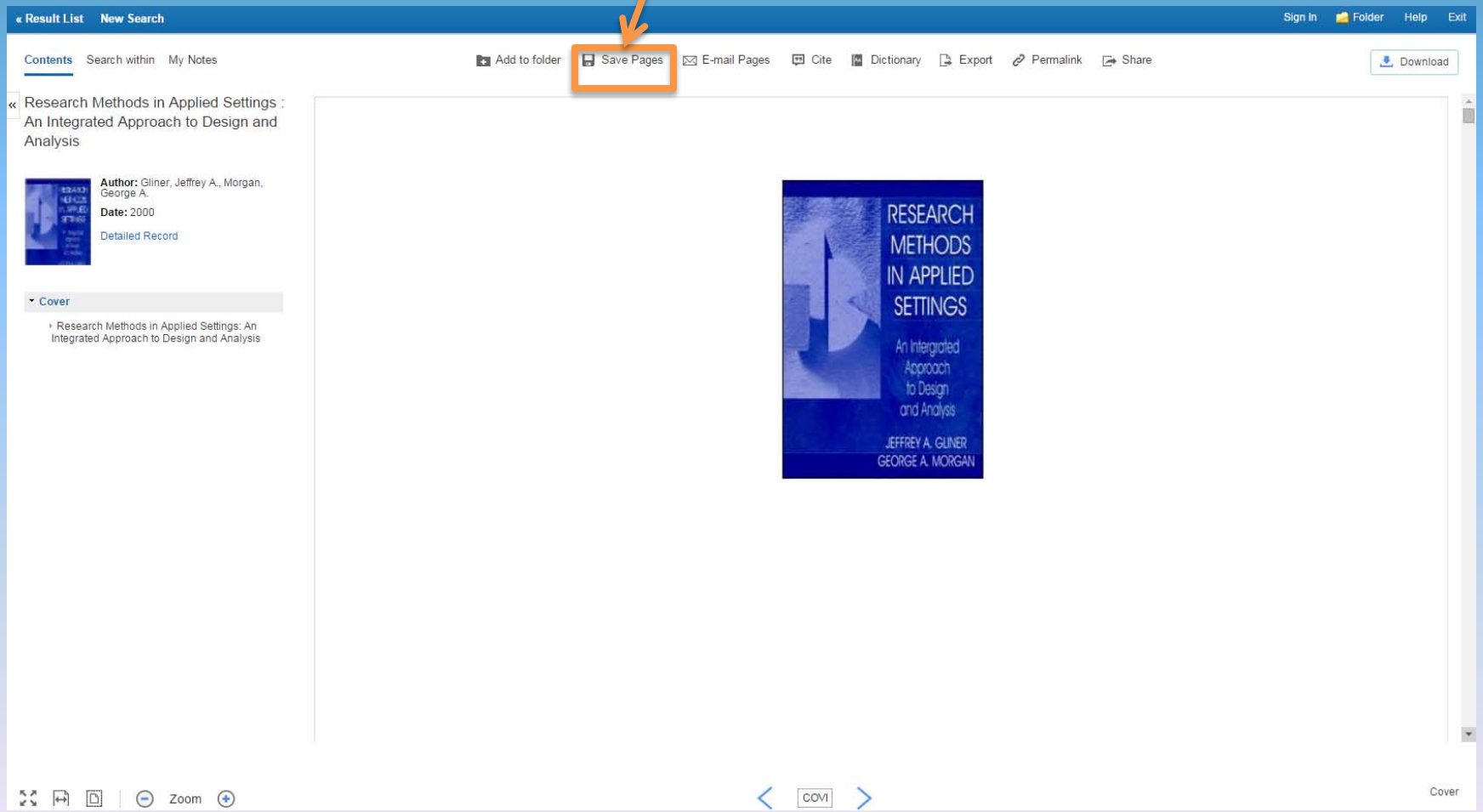

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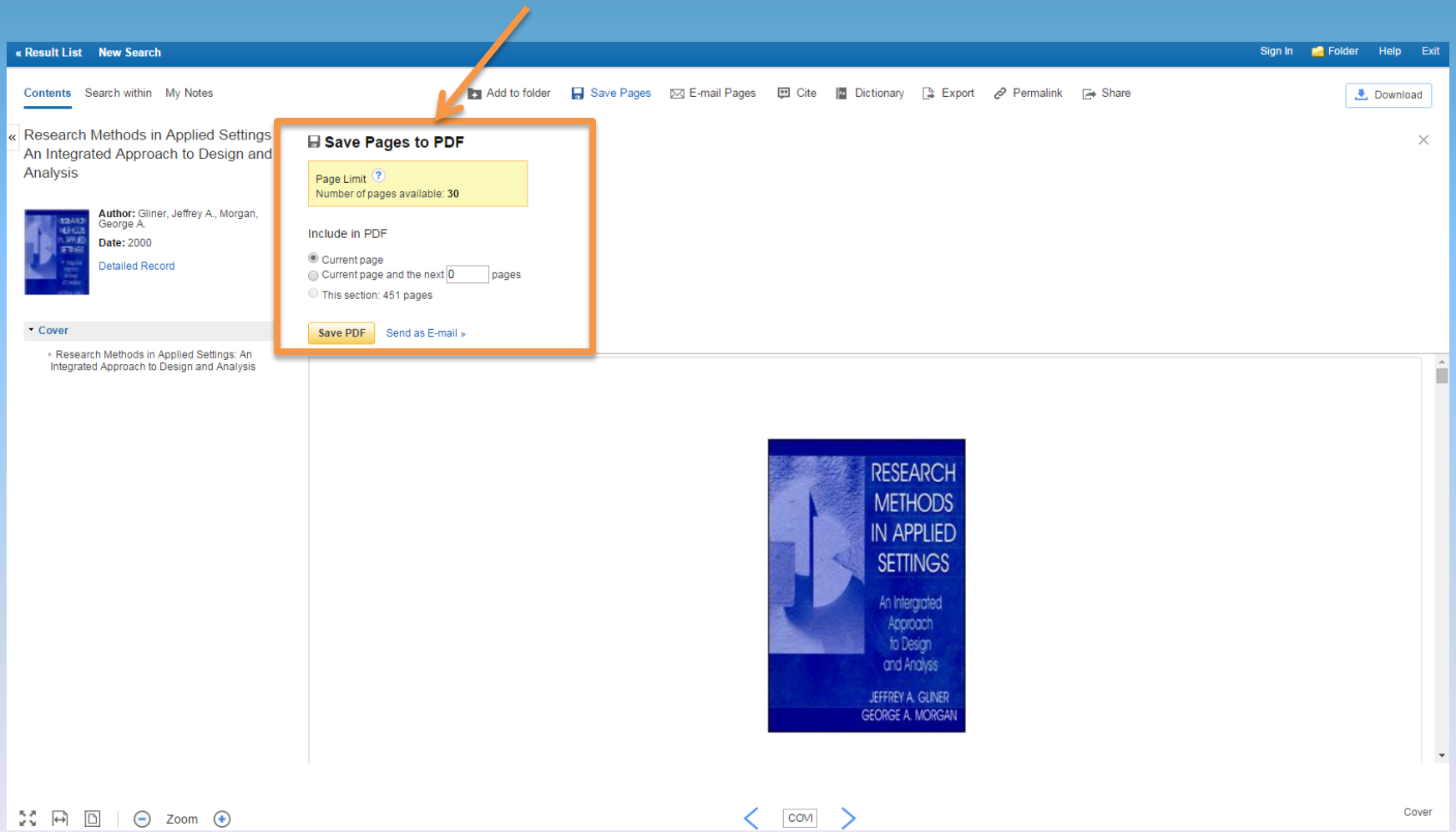

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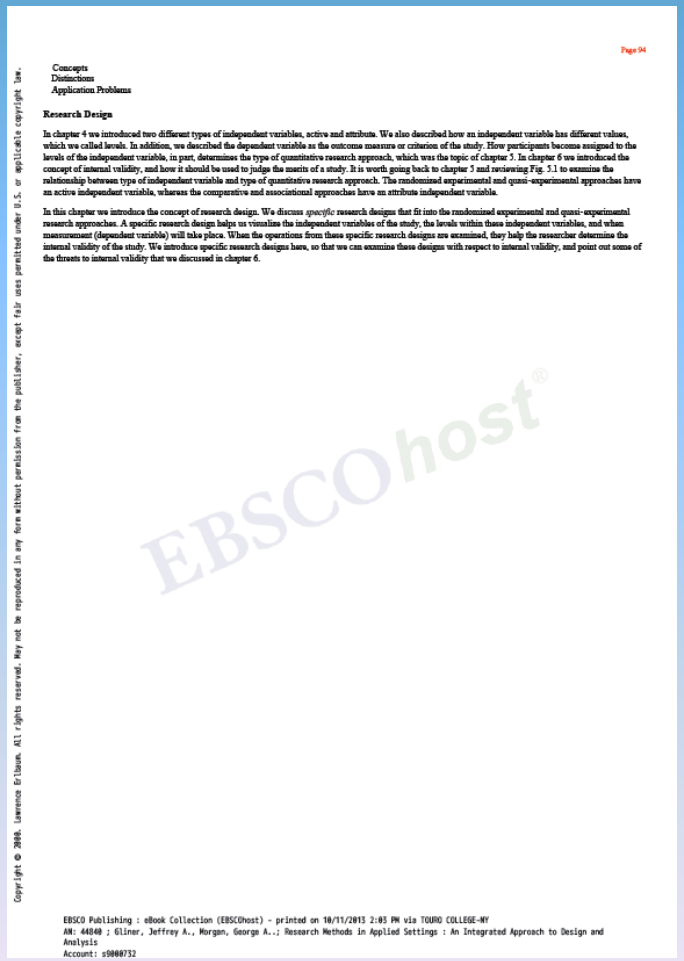

Concepts
Distinctions
Application Problems

Research Design

In chapter 4 we introduced two different types of independent variables, active and attribute. We also described how an independent variable has different values, which we called levels. In addition, we described the dependent variable as the outcome measure or criterion of the study. How participants becomes assigned to the levels of the independent variable, in part, determines the type of quantitative research approach, which was the topic of chapter 5. In chapter 6 we introduced the concept of internal validity, and how it should be used to judge the merits of a study. It is worth going back to chapter 5 and reviewing Fig. 5.1 to examine the relationship between type of independent variable and type of quantitative research approach. The randomized experimental and quasi-experimental approaches have an active independent variable, whereas the comparative and associational approaches have an attribute independent variable.

In this chapter we introduce the concept of research design. We discuss *specific* research designs that fit into the randomized experimental and quasi-experimental research approaches. A specific research design helps us visualize the independent variables of the study, the levels within these independent variables, and when measurement (dependent variable) will take place. When the operations from these specific research designs are examined, they help the researcher determine the internal validity of the study. We introduce specific research designs here, so that we can examine these designs with respect to internal validity, and point out some of the threats to internal validity that we discussed in chapter 6.

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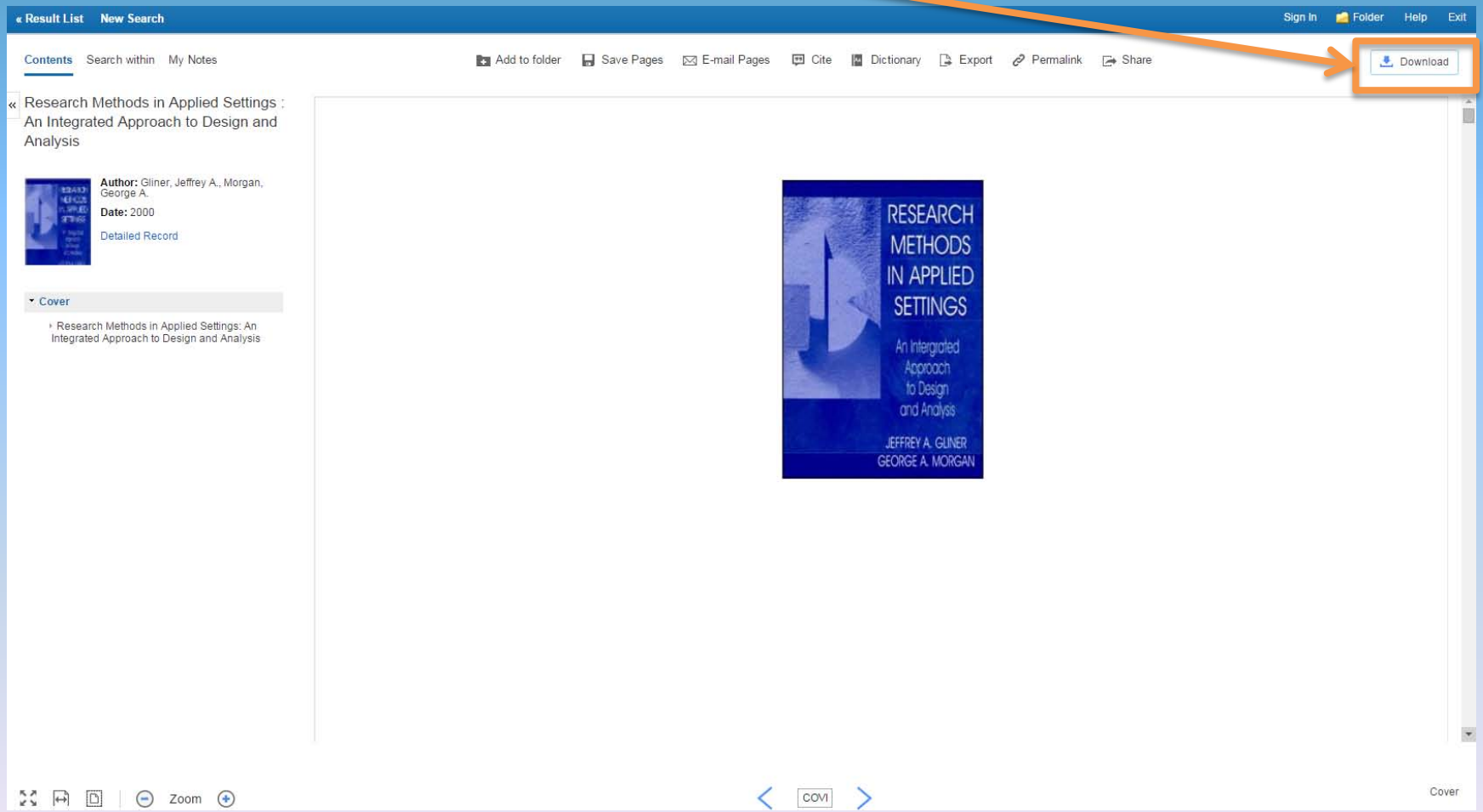

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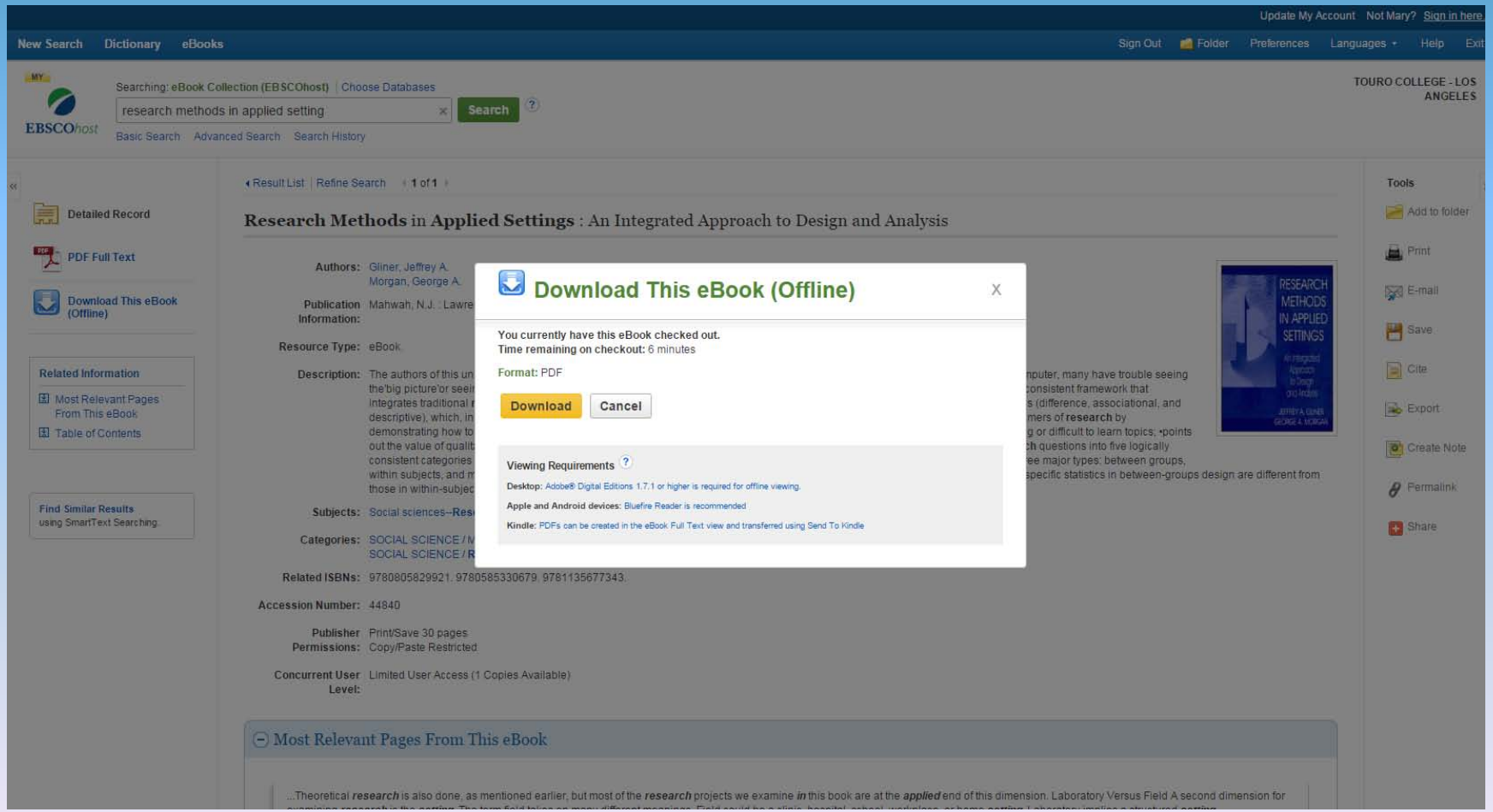

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