Finding Scholarly Articles

SEARCHING THE ACADEMIC SEARCH COMPLETE DATABASE
Where are the Scholarly Articles?

Here are the facts:

- Scholars publish in academic journals.
- The journals may be published in print or electronically.
- We find the content of these journals by looking in an index for our topic.
- Indexes are no longer giant books, they are databases.
- Some indexes have multiple subjects and some only one.
- Choose the database that suits your needs and search for articles on your topic from all of the journals that are indexed in that database.
- Try more than one database as you research... Some journals/articles overlap but there are unique articles in each database, too.
Starting With the Basics

- To find a database go to the Library homepage.
- You can use an A-Z list if you know the database you want or find databases by subject.
- For this tutorial Click on the A-Z list.
- Academic Search Complete is the second database in the A-Z list and a good place to get acquainted with database searching.
Academic Search Complete is a multidisciplinary database that has citations for academic and non-academic periodicals and newspapers. Some of them include the full text and some do not.

Because it is a multidisciplinary database you can use it to search for many topics but no topic is covered in great depth.

It is a great database to use at the beginning of your research because it will usually have some articles on your topic and it will help you to find search terms.
Advanced Search

- When you click on Academic Search complete notice:
  - It has the built in Boolean operators and a drop down menu of fields you can search.
  - There is a place to add more rows for more terms if you need them.
  - There are also limiters under the search box area of the interface.
Bells and Whistles

Check out the limiters that are built in to this database under Search Options.

Limiters, as their name implies, are ways to limit your retrievals to the items that match your research needs.
Running a Search

- I want to know about treatment for my pets’ fleas.
- Here is my search for pets AND fleas with no limiters and the number of retrievals for that search.
Narrowing

- One way to narrow your retrievals to a more focused type and manageable number is to do some “field searching.” We know that scholarly articles have an abstract about the main points of the article. We can search for articles that mention the search terms in the abstract.
and even narrower...

- You can even **consider** searching for your terms in the Title only. This is risky in some disciplines since some titles are not clearly about the article.
- The point is ~~ explore the fields that are available for searching AND use them to your advantage!!
Narrowing your search from the Retrieval List

- Notice the ways ASC allows you to narrow your search on the page with the retrievals.
- WARNING! Never limit your search to Full Text!
- Remember this-- If you limit to full text you will not get the citations for the articles that may be full text in another database. (more about that later)
- The “references available” limiter will get citations with references even if the full text is not in this database.
- You could click on “scholarly peer reviewed journals”... but remember you still need to evaluate what you find.
- There is a slider that allows you to limit your search to a particular date range.
- Also notice the limiter for source types.
- There are some additional limiters on the search page.. Check them out!
After You Click Search

- The list of retrievals contains a number of records that look like this:

- If you want to know more about the article, click on the title or hover your mouse over the magnifying glass. You will get the full record, including subject terms and abstract.
- Check out the subject terms to see if there are some words you want to add to your list of search terms.
How to get it...

- Remember some databases have citations, some have abstracts, and some have full text. Well, some have a little of each, too.
- To get the full text of the article you want look for these links: there is HTML that opens inside the database, there is a PDF link (always the best) and the FindIt@WSU button. This Article has all three!
If the full text is available you can simply click on the link to the full text.

If the full text is not in the database you are searching, click on the FindIt@WSU button and you will be taken to the Search It catalog. You will need to sign in to Search It to get access to journal articles.

Once you get to Search It you will find out if WSU has a subscription to the journal that published the article you want and find the link to the full text of that article.
Once you are in the catalog you will see your “Access Options”.
Notice that the “Full text is available at” link.
If the full text was not available you would use the “Request through Interlibrary Loan - Vancouver” link.
To use Interlibrary Loan: ILLiad for articles

- Click on your campus.
- Sign in with the ID and password that you created.
- And the database will fill in the request form for you.
- Click submit.
- Usually, in about 24-48 hours you will receive an email telling you that your article is available... with a link to your account.
- Sign in, and click on the “pick up your pdf” link on the left menu bar under the “view” heading. A pdf of your article will be there.
- Be aware--- the article drops off after 21 days so save it or print it so you don’t loose it.
- There is NO CHARGE to students for interlibrary loan at WSUV.
Don’t have an ILLiad Account??

You can create an account from the logon page:

Or from the ILLiad link on the Library homepage.

Create an ILLiad (interlibrary loan) Account today!!
Your turn

That's All Folks