Transcript: How to find journal articles

Databases subscribed to by UNB Libraries are the best sources for journal articles, especially peer-reviewed content. These databases are more comprehensive than the library catalogue (UNB WorldCat) and provide interfaces that make it easy to narrow your search results. Also, unlike UNB WorldCat, specialized databases include features that are tailored to specific fields of study. For instance, historians searching in Historical Abstracts can search by era; social scientists searching in PsycINFO can search by demographic details, such as gender, age, etc.; and biologists searching in BIOSIS Citation Index can search by taxonomic data.

Let's look at an example. There are two main advantages to using PsycINFO over UNB WorldCat and these advantages are true for most of our specialized databases. PsycINFO has a thesaurus and several discipline-specific limiters that allow you to craft your search more effectively and to narrow your results. Using the thesaurus in PsycINFO will help you generate the vocabulary that best describes your topic. In this search example of depression and its treatment in adolescents, I'm going to choose "major depression" as my "Major Concept."

In order to fine-tune a search, make use of the limiters on the left. We will limit our search results to peer-reviewed publications. We are going to limit the publication date to 2015 onwards for most recent studies. We will choose the age of our study group. We will also choose the gender of our study group, and our methodology. Under "Tests & Measures," we can fine-tune our search even further by choosing to look at studies that incorporate the Beck Depression Inventory, which is a self-report questionnaire used to gauge the severity of depression. At the top left, we can get a snapshot view of all the limiters we used in this search.

When we run a search for adolescent depression and its treatments in UNB WorldCat, the limiters on the left do not provide the same level of precision. We can limit by format, author, year, and topic. Though we can find useful general resources, they may not meet the specific requirements of our topic.

If you are not sure which databases to use, look for a research guide that corresponds to your topic or area of study.

In your chosen research guide, be sure to locate the "Find Articles" tab with database suggestions.

You can also "Browse databases by subject," which is the first option offered within the "Article Databases" tab, above the main search box.

For more help with your research, contact us at the Research Help Desk (in person, via instant chat, via text message, or phone) or ask your subject librarian whose name and contact information appear in every research guide. Also, check out our research help page located under the "Help" tab. This page is full of research tips and includes links to useful videos.