

Transcript: How to Find Journal Articles

In this video you will learn how to

- locate and access UNB Libraries' databases,
- select subject-appropriate databases and take advantage of their specialized features, and
- access peer-reviewed, full text articles.

Databases subscribed to by UNB Libraries are the best sources for journal articles, especially peer-reviewed articles often required to complete your assignments.

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 in the "Article Databases" tab.

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, subject-specific 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.

In some databases, search results can easily be limited to peer-reviewed journal articles by checking off the box for scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals.

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 population of our study group, and our methodology.

Notice the search results have direct links to the articles' "html full text" or "pdf full text". Select the option that best suits your needs.

In the same list, there are links that ask you to “check for full text.” These links with the UNB sail symbol will direct you either back to the Libraries’ collection or the document delivery service.

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For more help with your research, contact us via the online chat on the libraries’ homepage.