



Articles: Finding an article about your research topic

Use a *Library Database* to help you find an article about your research topic; these databases are designed to help you find articles quickly and easily.

1. Where to start:

From the library's home page, click on **Find Articles or Journals**. We recommend the databases **EBSCOhost (Academic Search Premier)** and **Wilson OmniFile** as good starting points for most topics.

2. Doing a database search:

1. Think of some **keywords** (important words describing your topic)
2. Type your best keyword(s) into the search box.
3. If you need to combine more than one topic in your search, link your keywords with **and**
For example: **death penalty and racism**
drinking and college students and grades

→ Do you need articles from **scholarly** or **peer-reviewed** journals only? Then mark this option on the database search page. (Look for it in the area below the search box.)

3. Evaluating your results:

- Be choosy. An article can contain all your keywords but still not be useful!
- Look closely at the title of the article for clues to what it is about. You can view the abstract (a short summary) by clicking on the title.

If you get no results or too few results:

- Check your spelling.
- Don't type long phrases or questions. Use only the most important words.
- Try different keywords for your search. Think of related terms or synonyms.

For example, if your search was: **death penalty and racism**

Try one of these instead: **capital punishment and racism**
death penalty and discrimination

4. Getting a copy of the actual article:

Library databases often include online copies of the articles themselves, or **full text**. On your results list, look for a blue link or an icon indicating that full text is available.

If you don't see any full text, click the "**Search for Full Text**" button. If the article is available anywhere online, you will be given a link to it. If you have trouble finding a copy of an article, ask at the Reference Desk for help.

Use the library's databases at home!

Start at the library's home page, click on the database you want, then log-in with your Coyote ID and your last name.

If you have any questions, please consult a reference librarian or call 537-5091.