

Academic Search Complete / Ebsco Video Transcript

Before starting your search, break down your research question into keywords. For example, if you are searching for articles on how the media affects children's attitudes, first identify the main concepts and synonyms.

To search in Academic Search Complete or our other Ebsco databases, type in your keywords. Start broad, and then narrow your search by adding keywords or using limiters.

Evaluate the results by scanning the title and subjects. These results are not quite what we're looking for.

The subject tags beneath each article can help you narrow down your search or find more helpful keywords. For example, we can see here that a more helpful keyword for "media" may be "mass media".

These results are more relevant to our research question.

You can also use the Subject limiter to select subject headings you find relevant to your research.

To clear any limiter, just click the X box next to the limiter on the left side.

The date limiter is useful for narrowing down your results to items published more recently. Generally, you want to stick to articles published in the last 10 years or so.

Your results have icons next to them, which say "Academic Journal" or Periodical.

Academic journals are those that have gone through the peer-review process - written by scholars and reviewed by scholars and experts in the field. Periodicals are usually written by a journalist or practitioner. Check with your professor to see what is right for your particular assignment.

You can use the "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed)" box to limit your results to scholarly articles, if appropriate for your assignment.

Once you found an article that works well with your research needs, you can click on it for more information about the article. On this page you will find access to the full text. You will also see the subject terms selected for the article and an abstract. The abstract is a summary of the article, and can be a good way to see if the article is relevant to your research.

There is also a toolbar, which will allow you to print, save, and find the citation.

Always double-check the citation for correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and formatting.

For more help with using library databases, please contact a librarian! You can call us, email us, chat with us online or check out our frequently asked questions.