Database Searching Examples

The library subscribes to over a hundred different electronic databases, providing access to thousands of online publications, including academic journals, periodicals, and e-books. To see the list of the database, click on the Articles & Databases tab above the search engine on the library home page.

Access to databases may be restricted to UMM students, faculty, and staff due to licensing and copyright agreements with vendors and publishers. If you are using a computer on campus that is connected to the UMM wireless network, you will be connected automatically to library electronic resources; no log-in required. In order to access our resources from off-campus, you will be asked to sign-in using your x-500 username and password before being taken to a database home page.

Academic Search Premier

Academic Search Premier is a multidisciplinary EBSCO database containing both scholarly and popular articles, including full text for nearly 4,500 journals and more than 3,600 peer-reviewed titles. In addition to the full text, it also offers indexing and abstracts for over 8,300 journals and periodicals.

When you open the database you will be taken to the basic search screen.

After entering your search string, determine what type of search mode you want to use. If you have entered a Boolean string, for example, you’ll want to make sure you select
Boolean/Phrase, so you don’t receive extraneous results. In the bottom portion of the screen you can choose to further limit your search to full text articles only, peer reviewed publications, and/or by publication type and date.

There is a great deal of information contained on the search results page. If you see PDF Full Text or HTML Full Text below an item’s title, you know that document is available to you in full text. Simply click on the link to the article. If a journal article is not available in full text from this database, clicking on the UMM Find It button below the article’s title links you to a page indicating where the article is available.

If you determine you want to further limit your search after you see the results you can choose to see only specific types of publications by clicking on the links in the left pane under Source Types. You can also limit the results to Full Text, Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals or by publication date.
Clicking on the title of the article will open up the complete record for the article. This will include all the necessary items need to correctly cite the article including the article title, author(s), source (journal name), and date information. The record will also include subject headings which are terms that describe what the article is about, many of which are hyperlinked to other articles with the same heading. An abstract (summary) of the article may also be present.
Expanded Academic ASAP

Expanded Academic ASAP is a multidisciplinary database containing over 5,300 journals, scholarly and popular, from Gale. While many of the journals are available in full text, there are some publication limitations for the most current articles.

As you can see, Expanded Academic has a very different look than Academic Search Premier. Nevertheless, the search skills you’ve been working on are still applicable. The basic search on the home page allows you to look for keywords.

You can also try searching using the Advanced Search by clicking on the magnifying glass icon in the top right of the page. This allows you to specify which fields you would like to search. You can also limit your search depending on what types of articles you are interested in.
The results page automatically separates your results into a number of content categories including academic journals, magazines, news, and images. By default, academic journal results will be displayed initially.

To the right of the results list, you’ll find additional options for limiting your results, including publication date, full text, and subject heading. If you have too many results, you can also use the Search Within Results bar to apply additional keywords, titles, or other information to your current search parameters.

Information regarding how to access an item is readily available directly above the article’s title on the results page. If full text is available in PDF format, there will also be a PDF page(s) button below the article information for quick access. HTML full text can be accessed by clicking on the article’s title. If a journal article is not available in
full text from this database, clicking on the UMM Find It button below the article’s title links you to a page indicating where the article is available.

Open an article record by clicking the hyperlinked article title on the results page. Here you can read the abstract and find all the citation information needed. In the upper right corner of the screen there is a box marked Tools, where you can print, save, or email the article to yourself here. You can even download an MP3 version of the file!

You can also save articles to a folder for later retrieval. Do this on your results page by clicking Save button below each article title. Your folder, as well as your search history, is always accessible at the top of the page under More.
JSTOR

JSTOR provides access to hundreds of scholarly journals, all available in full text. Be aware, though, that JSTOR functions primarily as an archival database, so current articles will not appear in JSTOR.

Once again, JSTOR has a different search interface than the other two databases we’ve previously looked at. And once again, the search techniques you’ve learned can be used in JSTOR. You can start searching the database from its home page using the basic search or using Boolean operators to create a more complicated search.

You could also click on the Advanced Search button below the search bar. This will take you to a more elaborate search window with the option to limit search by date, language, or publication title or discipline. Use the drop-down boxes to limit search terms to the title, author, abstract, or caption text.
Once you’ve entered your search terms you will be taken to the results page. (This may take few moments.) Each result is available in full text, so you won’t see any “UMM Find It” buttons. You can sort your results by relevance or by publication date.

If you click on the article title, you will be taken to an abstract of the article. It is good to read the abstract before printing the article to make sure you don’t unnecessarily print something you may not need. When you find an article you would like to print (or
save) click on Download PDF button in the upper right side of the page. You will receive a pop-up indicating you must accept JSTOR’s terms and conditions. This is similar to other databases’ copyright agreements. Click I Accept.

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