

FINDING SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

WHY CAN'T I JUST GOOGLE IT?

Google is a great place to start searching for information, but if you are only using the open Web to do academic-level research, you are missing out. Most scholarly articles are not freely available; they are behind paywalls. The library purchases access to scholarly information. Even [Google Scholar](#) will not link to all scholarly articles in the library's databases.

TO FIND RELIABLE SCHOLARLY MATERIALS, USE THE LIBRARY'S OVER 100 DATABASES.

HERE'S HOW!

1. GO TO [MVCC.EDU](#) AND SELECT **ACADEMICS**.

2. CHOOSE **LIBRARIES** FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU

3. START YOUR RESEARCH BY **SEARCHING THE LIBRARY COLLECTION.**

- Use the search box at the top on the library's home page.
- A search using this box will return catalog items such as books and DVDs as well as sources available through databases such as scholarly journal, newspaper, and magazine articles.
- The search box will NOT search the entire library collection.



4. FOR THE MOST MEANINGFUL SEARCH, **ENTER PHRASES IN QUOTATION MARKS [“”] AND USE BOOLEAN OPERATORS**

- Uses quotation marks around phrases to ensure the search engine finds a set of words in the exact order you are looking for.
- Use **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** to narrow or broaden your search.

See the Library's [Search Like a Pro](#) guide for more search tips.

Using **AND** between search terms will yield results that contain both terms.

- E.G. “childhood depression” AND obesity



Using **OR** between search terms will yield results that contain either of the terms.

- E.G. obesity OR overweight



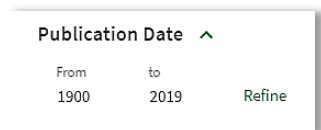
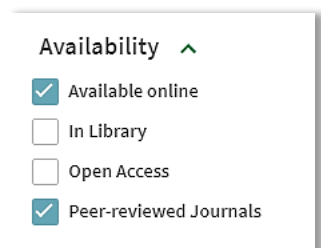
Using **NOT** between search terms will eliminate results that contain the term after NOT.

- E.G. depression NOT postpartum

5. PRESS **ENTER** OR CLICK THE **SEARCH** BUTTON TO RETRIEVE RESULTS.

6. **REFINE YOUR RESULTS USING THE SEARCH FILTERS ON THE LEFT.**

- Choose **available online** to obtain results you can read immediately.
- For scholarly journal articles, choose **Peer-reviewed Journals**.
- To retrieve results from a specific period of time, change the dates in the year boxes
- Results can be further refined by subject, author, geography, language, etc.



DON'T STOP THERE! TURN THE PAGE.



7. USE A DATABASE SEARCH TO IMPROVE YOUR RESULTS



A **database search** provides access to additional resources such as journals, high quality images, educational videos, or subject specific reference materials.

SEARCHING DATABASES

On the library homepage (mvcc.edu/library), click the *Databases* button.



- **IF you know the database you want**, find that database using the alphabet key.
- **IF you want results from multiple disciplines or fields of study**, search multidisciplinary databases like *Academic OneFile* or *Academic Search Complete*. These are the first databases listed on the database page.
- **IF you want results in one discipline or field of study**, search for a subject specific database.
 - Select the **ALL SUBJECTS** dropdown menu to find a database in your field of interest.
 - Use a database designated as a **BEST BET** due to its large amount of subject specific content, **OR** read database descriptions to locate the best database for your needs.
- **Choose limitations** for your search (see number 6).
 - Instructors frequently require sources that come from scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals.
 - Instructors sometimes request sources published within the last 5 or 10 years.

WHAT IS A DATABASE?

A database is a collection of information used for research and writing. Some databases provide information from many disciplines while others collect information specific to one field of study. Many databases are only accessible by subscription. The college subscribes, so you can access historic and up-to-date information.

SEARCH TIPS

- **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE?** If you have to make an argument or write a persuasive paper on a controversial topic, try these databases:
 - *Opposing Viewpoints in Context; Issues and Controversies; CQ Researcher.*
- **NO RESULTS!?** Check your spelling, try different search terms, or use a different database.
- **CITATION: Many databases provide citations** for journal articles and other sources.
 - The **citation tool** appears once a source is selected and can often be found on a **TOOLS menu** to the right of the source title.
 - Click on the citation icon, choose the required citation format, and copy or download it.
 - To paste a citation into a Word document, choose the **MERGE FORMATTING** paste option.
 - **NOTE:** These citations may have errors. **Always check your citation with a style guide.**

COMMON
CITATION
ICONS



Paste Options:



HAVE A QUESTION? NEED ASSISTANCE?



The **ASK A LIBRARIAN** feature on the [library's main page](#) allows students to connect with an MVCC librarian during library hours.



Need assistance after hours? Librarians across the country provide **24 hour online support**. Access their expertise through the **ASK A LIBRARIAN** button



Sign up for **tutoring**. Writing tutors can help you learn how to navigate databases and cite sources.



Go to the Utica **Learning Commons** in IT 129. Instructional Design Librarian, Jocelyn Ireland is often on site and provides expert individualized research assistance.