How to find journal articles

Searching for journal articles is best accomplished via the specialized article databases subscribed to by UNB Libraries rather than UNB WorldCat. These databases are more comprehensive than UNB WorldCat and they provide interfaces that facilitate more faceted searching. Unlike WorldCat, specialized databases include features that are specifically designed for researchers in a particular subject or discipline. For instance, historians searching in Historical Abstracts can search by era; social scientists searching in PsychINFO can search by demographic details, such as gender, age, etc.; and biologists searching in BIOSIS Citation Index can search by taxonomic data.

There are two main advantages to using PsychINFO over WorldCat and these advantages are true for most of our specialized databases, not just PsychINFO. PsychINFO has a thesaurus and a number of discipline-specific limiters that allow you to craft your search query more effectively and to fine tune your search results. Using the thesaurus in PsychINFO will generate the controlled vocabulary or subject headings that are most appropriate for my topic. For the purposes of this search, I'm going to choose "major depression" as my "Major Concept".

In order to fine-tune this search, we can go down the list of limiters on the left starting from the top. We will limit our search results to peer-reviewed publications, we are going to limit the publication date to 2000 for most recent studies, we will choose the age of our study group, we will also choose the gender of our study group, and our methodology. Under "Tests & Measures," we can fine-tune our search even further by choosing to look at studies that incorporate the Beck Depression Inventory, which is a self-report questionnaire used for gauging the severity of depression. Back at the top left, we can get a snapshot view of all the limiters we have used in this search.

When we run a search for adolescent depression and its treatments in WorldCat, the limiters on the left do not give us the same level of precision. We can limit by format, author, year, and topic. Though we can find useful general resources on our topic, they may not suffice the specific requirements of our topic.

Look for a subject guide that corresponds to your area of study, if you are not sure which databases to use. The subject guides are located in the Research by Subject section.

In your chosen subject guide, be sure to locate the yellow "Find Articles" tab with database suggestions.

You can also "Browse databases by subject," which is the first option offered within the yellow "Article Databases" tab also located on the library's home page.

For further help with your research, contact us at the Research Help Desk (in person, via instant chat, via text message, or phone) or ask your subject librarian whose name and contact information appear in every subject guide.