

## Finding Journal Articles

### 1) *Search a Library Database*

The University Library subscribes to over **100 research databases** which act as specialized search engines for journal articles and other scholarly research in specific disciplines.

### 2) *Identify an Appropriate, Relevant Article*

Depending on the database, the search results may include descriptions of many different types of publications, including books, magazine articles, **scholarly journal articles**, etc. **Make sure you are choosing materials appropriate for your assignment.**

### 3) *Find the Text of the Article (Does the Library have a subscription?)*

Some of the databases include the **full-text** of the articles listed in the search results. In others, use the **Find It!** service to see if the library has an online or print subscription to the journal, or if it is only available via Interlibrary Loan.

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## Accessing Library Research Databases

- 1) Go to the **University Library Website** (<http://library.csustan.edu/>)
- 2) Under **Find:**, chose **Articles in journals, magazines & newspapers**
- 3) For most undergraduate research, **Academic Search Elite** is a good place to start. For advanced research, choose a subject to access more comprehensive databases.
- 4) Off-campus users need to enter a current Stanislaus ID # (and last name).

### Academic Search Elite

This database searches descriptions of over 8 million articles published from 1985 to the present in 3,000 periodicals, most of which are scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. Each search result provides an abstract (a one paragraph description) of an article. Many of the results also link to the full-text of the article.

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## Search Tips

Library research databases are often more rigid in how terms are typed in a search box than generic web search engines (like Google). The following tips for searching Academic Search Elite also work in most other library research databases:

- A) Break your search down into key concepts.

Example: To search for the "the effects of violent TV programs on kids as they grow up", your key concepts might be "television," "violence" and "children."

- B) Separate your key concepts with the word **and**.

This ensures each concept can appear anywhere in every search result.

Example: television and violence and children

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## Scholarly vs. Popular Journals

Academic Search Elite searches for articles in scholarly and popular sources. Most of the library's advanced databases include articles from scholarly journals only. See the Library's handout on this topic for more information.

### To Retrieve Only Scholarly Research Journals


On the Advanced Search Screen (in Academic Search Elite):


Select **Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals**.

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## Getting the Text of the Article

Academic Search Elite includes the full-text of many articles. If the Find It! button is not next to a result, the text of the article may be immediately available via:

 [HTML Full Text](#) = Text of article available (article looks like a web page)

 [PDF Full Text](#) = PDF file of article available (article looks like a photocopy)

If the database does not have a link to the full-text, use the Find It! button to search for the article in the library's online subscriptions as well as the library's print journals.



- ▶ **Full text available via [\(Name of Library Subscription Service\)](#)**
    - accesses the text of the article in a different library subscription
  - ▶ **We may have: [a copy in print listed in the University Library Catalog](#)**
    - note volume and/or year of desired article; click the link to display the volumes/years owned in print or microfilm by the Library
  - ▶ **This item may be available via [Interlibrary Loan](#).**
    - indicates you may request a copy of the article via Interlibrary Loan (articles often arrive in 3-5 working days)
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## Location of the Library's Print and Microfilm Journals

Print copies of journals are available on the north side of the library behind the reference area on the second floor. Journals are shelved alphabetically by title. Microfilm copies of the journals can be found in the green boxes alongside the print copies of journals. Microfilm readers are available in the main lobby of the library. Ask the Circulation staff for help using these readers. Printing is 10¢ per page. The library offers a copy service. Inquire at the Circulation desk about this service.

Most journals may be checked out of the library for two weeks. Check the inside cover of the journal for any restrictions. Restrictions will be stamped in red ink.

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