Finding journal articles on a topic through LibrarySearch and databases

1. How do I search for journal articles on a topic?

A good place to start is LibrarySearch on the Library home page at https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/. This covers a huge range of sources including books and online journals. Just type in the author, title or topic that you are interested in, for example: 'social media fake news'.

The results screen may show you a mixture of books, articles and other sources. To see just the journal articles, go to the Search Tools box on the left of the screen. From these options you can limit your search results:

- to Articles
- to Peer-reviewed articles
- by date

Here is an example of an article found on LibrarySearch. Click on the ‘View full text’ button to see it.

3. Social Media and Fake News in the 2016 Election
   by Hunt Allcott, Matthew Gentzkow
   Article 2017 | Peer-reviewed | No other editions or formats
   Source: Journal of Economic Perspectives v31 n2 (201705): 211-236
   Held by: Oxford Brookes University

Log in with your Brookes details when prompted. In this case the article is available on the Business Source Complete database:
If you get lots of results, or if the results aren’t relevant, try changing your search words or using an additional search word.

2. How do I access databases?

LibrarySearch is a good place to start but we recommend you also use databases to search for articles, especially for more in-depth research. This is because LibrarySearch doesn’t cover all of our e-resources and you may get better results on a more specialised database.

Go to the Library home page at https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/ and click on the Find a database tab.

You can either:

- Click on the drop-down menu to ‘Browse our databases by subject’. This will connect you to the relevant Subject Help page which lists the key databases for your subject/course. Try looking for the databases recommended for Pathways programmes, or another subject if appropriate. The direct link to the ‘Journal articles and databases’ page for Pathways students is: https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/subject-help/pathways-programmes/journal-articles-and-databases/

- Or, if you have the name of specific database, for example ‘Academic Search Complete’, use the alphabetical list. Click on ‘A’ – for Academic Search Complete’ – and then click on the database name in the list. Further details about the database will appear on the right side of the screen. Look for the ‘Search Collection Directly at the Provider’ link and click on it to access the database.
3. How do I search a database?

Databases work in a different way to Google and the LibrarySearch. You’ll often see on databases that they have several search boxes linked by AND. You need to type separate keywords or phrases into each search box:

**Searching with AND**

Put 1 idea per box, for example: children AND obesity - this will find references containing both terms. Add in additional keywords to focus your search – each new word/phrase will narrow down your search e.g. children AND obesity AND media.

Experiment with alternative terms, e.g. children AND overweight - you may find more results.

Tip: Put phrases in quotation marks if you want to make sure the words are only found together (and not separately), e.g. “human rights”; “climate change”, “fake news”.

**Searching with OR**

You can use OR to search for alternative terms and broaden your search, e.g. teenagers OR adolescents - this will find references containing either or both terms.

**Searching with AND + OR**

Put brackets around the ‘or’ part of the search, alcohol AND (teenagers OR adolescents) will find references that contain the terms alcohol and teenagers; alcohol and adolescents; alcohol and teenagers and adolescents.

**Wildcard symbols**

Use the truncation symbol * added to the root of a word to search for alternative endings, e.g. employ* will find employ, employer, employment, employing etc.

Use the ? symbol to replace a character in a word e.g. globali?ation will find globalization and globalisation.

**Refining your results**

Look for options to focus your search. These can include:

- Limiting your search to material published in English.
- Narrowing your results by date.
- Focusing on scholarly peer-reviewed articles.

**Example search on Academic Search Complete database:**

![Example search on Academic Search Complete database](image)

**How to read the full text**

Some databases such as Academic Search Complete give you the full text of most articles, often in the form of PDF files that you can save or print. Other databases will give you an ‘abstract’ or summary of the article. Look for a full text option next to a reference and click on this to connect to the article if it is available.
4. Further help

If you are a student doing University English, Foundation or a Pre-Master’s course, check the ‘Journal articles and databases’ page for Pathways students at: https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/subject-help/pathways-programmes/journal-articles-and-databases/

Here you’ll find:

- Information about what journal articles look like and how to read them.
- Explanation of ‘peer reviewed journals’
- How to understand a journal reference.
- How to find a specific article.
- Links to key databases.

Please contact your Academic Liaison Librarian, Joanna Cooksey by emailing jcooksey@brookes.ac.uk if you would like to make a 1-to-1 appointment for further help.

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