

FINDING JOURNAL ARTICLES

Refine Your Topic

Once you have your initial topic, analyze it for key concepts to use as search terms (keywords).

Example:

- “Discuss the impact of global warming on arctic regions in Canada”
- First, look at your topic for its main concepts. In this **example** they are: “*global warming*”, “*Arctic*”, “*Canada*”
- Decide on the keywords you will use as search terms. Think about synonyms for your concepts.
- Remember to use Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT to combine your keywords and to retrieve more relevant results. Example: (*“global warming” OR “climate change”*) AND Arctic AND Canada

Choose a Research Database

- **Use a research database:** it is the most efficient way to find articles on a topic.
- **How do I know which database to use?** Simply click on [Research Databases by Subject](#), linked from the Library home page, for a quick subject overview.
- For more resource recommendations go to the Library home page and click on [Subject Guides](#). Select the Subject Guide that pertains to your topic. The guide will list the best and most relevant research databases for your specific subject area.
- **What type of article do I need?** Make sure you know what type of article you need to find: a newspaper article, a magazine or a scholarly/academic article? Click [here](#) for a chart
- If the database does not contain the full text of your article, use the “Where Can I Get This?” link, which searches all other Library databases for an article online , as well as the Library Catalogue for a possible print copy of the article.
- **Remember, it is often necessary to search several databases to find the best articles on your topic.**

Find Articles from a Citation

If you have a complete journal article citation go to the Library [Journal Titles](#) database located on the library home page, to search by the name of the journal. The Journal Titles database will display whether the library has a paper subscription at one of our campus libraries or whether it’s available full-text in a database. You can request journals to be sent from other Kwantlen campuses by searching for them in the Library catalogue and using the **Place Hold** feature.

If your journal name does not appear in our Journal Titles database request an [Interlibrary loan](#). This means we will search for the journal at another institution (you need to allow 3 – 4 working days for the article to arrive).

If you need help finding relevant articles, [Ask a Librarian!](#)