

RESEARCH STRATEGIES

Before diving into searching one of the Library databases, it is helpful to plan your search strategy. If you already have an assignment with a research question, begin by writing down the question and determining the keywords.

Basic Searching

In research databases, the default is set to basic searching with one single search box. Words and phrases entered in the basic search function will search the database for any occurrences of these words throughout the articles. Basic search is an effective way to begin your research.

Advanced Searching

Advanced searching can be helpful once you have determined subject terms that are relevant and can also be helpful if you are looking for articles by a specific author or researcher. In addition to offering researchers the ability to do Boolean searches, you can also narrow by date, full text, peer-reviewed and source type.

Boolean Operators

Boolean operators allow researchers to connect search terms together to either narrow or broaden their set of results using AND, OR and NOT.

AND searches for all terms and limits search results to sources containing both words. Example: symbolism AND art

OR searches for either of the search terms, which expands the search to include either of these terms. Example: Shakespeare OR drama

NOT excludes the search term after the NOT operator. Using NOT limits the search because the results cannot include the term following NOT. Example: literature NOT poetry

MORE SEARCH TIPS

While research databases are full of resources, be aware that complete articles are not always available online. To only view resources that are readily available, you can limit either by using the full-text limiter in the EBSCO databases or limit to “Content that I can access” using JSTOR.

An asterisk, (*) also known as a wildcard, or truncation, searches all forms of a word stem. Example: educ* would return results for education, educator, educational, etc.

A parenthesis () can be used around OR searches to ensure that the database knows which terms are to be included in the OR search. Example: (high school OR secondary school OR college preparatory school)

Quotation marks “” can be used to return search results with the exact term inside the quotation marks. Example: “climate change”

Accessing and Using Articles

When full-text articles are available, research databases will allow you to download, print, email, share and save the articles. Research databases also include citations, so that you can easily copy and paste the resources into a bibliography that adhere to the style guide required (MLA, Chicago, APA, etc.).

MAIN LIBRARY
15425 Detroit Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-3829
(216) 226-8275

HOURS
Monday - Saturday
9:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Sunday
1:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

MADISON BRANCH
13229 Madison Avenue
Lakewood, Ohio 44107-4898
(216) 228-7428

HOURS
Monday - Saturday
9:00 a.m.- 9:00 p.m.
Friday - Thursday
9:00 a.m.- 6:00 p.m.

lakewoodpubliclibrary.org

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ACADEMIC RESEARCH AT LAKEWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY

Lakewood Public Library provides free access to an extensive collection of academic and professional resources online and in the library. Library databases contain scholarly resources, most of which are peer-reviewed. Peer-reviewed resources ensure that the information in the articles is critically reviewed by experts within the field of study to ensure accuracy.



For a full list of resources offered by the Library, visit lakewoodpubliclibrary.org/research/resources or scan the QR code.

If accessing these resources outside of the Library, you will be prompted to enter your library card number.

USING LIBRARY DATABASES FOR RESEARCH

While there is useful information available by searching the internet, library databases contain scholarly resources, most of which are peer-reviewed. Peer-reviewed resources ensure that the information in the articles is critically reviewed by scholars within the field of study to ensure accuracy.

EBSCOhost Databases

research.ebsco.com



EBSCOhost is a research platform that contains thousands of peer-reviewed journals, popular magazines, professional journals, newspapers, and more. Students can refine their research strategies and search across multiple databases at once.

EBSCOhost offers a wide range of subjects from basic introductory level to advanced scholarly level, including:

Academic Search Premier

Academic Search Premier contains full-text versions of thousands of publications, including academic titles, popular magazines, newspapers and videos.

Business Source Premier

Business Source Premier is a database covering business and management topics, including accounting, banking, economics, finance, international trade, marketing, management information systems, and operations management.

MasterFILE Premier

MasterFILE Premier provides a collection of full-text magazines, e-books and primary source documents. It also includes an extensive image collection.

Religion and Philosophy Collection

Religion & Philosophy Collection is an in-depth collection of resources covering topics such as world religions, biblical studies, religious history, epistemology and philosophy, which span over 100 years.

Science Reference Source

Science Reference Source offers full text for hundreds of science magazines, journals, reference books and videos. The database also contains science experiments, curriculum-aligned lesson plans and an image collection.

JSTOR

jstor.org



JSTOR provides access to over twelve million journal articles, books, images and primary sources in various disciplines in humanities, arts and sciences, social sciences and business. It is widely used by researchers, scholars and students for its extensive and reliable archival content, which includes historical issues of scholarly publications.

JSTOR contains articles and resources across a variety of academic disciplines, including Art and Art History, Economics, Engineering, Literature, Mathematics, Philosophy, Technology and more.

NEWSPAPER RESOURCES

Lakewood Public Library offers NewsBank, Digital Reel and New York Times All Access, which can help students research primary sources and articles in local, state, national and international newspapers.