

How to Find an Article in a Periodical

Reference Department

When should I use articles vs. books?

Articles tend to have a narrower focus, are relatively short, and can be more current than books. Books tend to provide more breadth or background on topics, are usually longer, and may provide more historical information.

How do I find an article on my topic?

The library subscribes to hundreds of databases that index article citations and abstracts. When searching these databases you will find that some contain the full text of articles with the citations. However, full text is not always available for every article and some databases only contain citations and abstracts. If this is the case, you can check if the full text is available in another database by clicking the **Find it @ NU** button located with the citation. Not every single article is available electronically, so keep in mind that you can check [NUcat: the library catalog](#) to see if we have the publication in print. If the electronic and print is not available through the library, you can always place an [Interlibrary Loan](#) request for the article.

To gain access to these databases you can go to the [Electronic Resources](#) webpage and choose Find Database.

The screenshot shows the 'Find Database' interface. At the top, there are three tabs: 'Title', 'Locate', and 'Subject'. Below the tabs is a search bar with a dropdown menu showing the alphabet from A to Z and 'Other'. Below the search bar, there are three radio buttons: 'Starts with', 'Contains' (which is selected), and 'Exact'. Below these are two more radio buttons: 'Show all' (selected) and 'Show unrestricted'. Three callout boxes with arrows point to specific parts of the interface: the first points to the search box, the second points to the 'Subject' tab, and the third points to the 'Starts with' radio button.

Find Database

Title Locate Subject

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ Other

Title: Starts with Contains Exact

Show all Show unrestricted

If you already know the title of the database you need, type the title in the search box

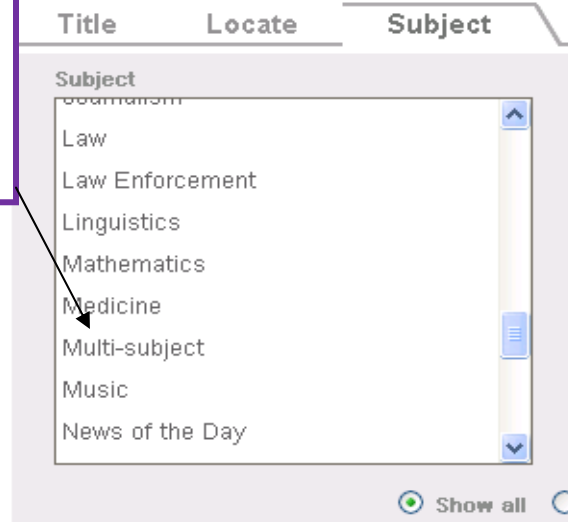
If you are not sure what database to start with, click on the **Subject** tab

You can also browse by the first letter of the title

The library maintains subscriptions to hundreds of databases that cover all of the fields of study taught at Northwestern University.

Find Database

If you are unsure of what field of study your topic is found under then you might also start with a list of general databases by selecting **Multi-subject** from the list of subject areas.



Although all databases may look different and may offer different features, they function in roughly the same way. Refer to the sample search provided below as a guide.

The database searched in the example below is called **Academic Search Premier**. It is a general index to articles in journals, magazines and news publications and it spans many subject disciplines. It is often a good database with which to start your research.



Searching: **Academic Search Premier** | [Choose Databases »](#)

women's rights

Search

Clear

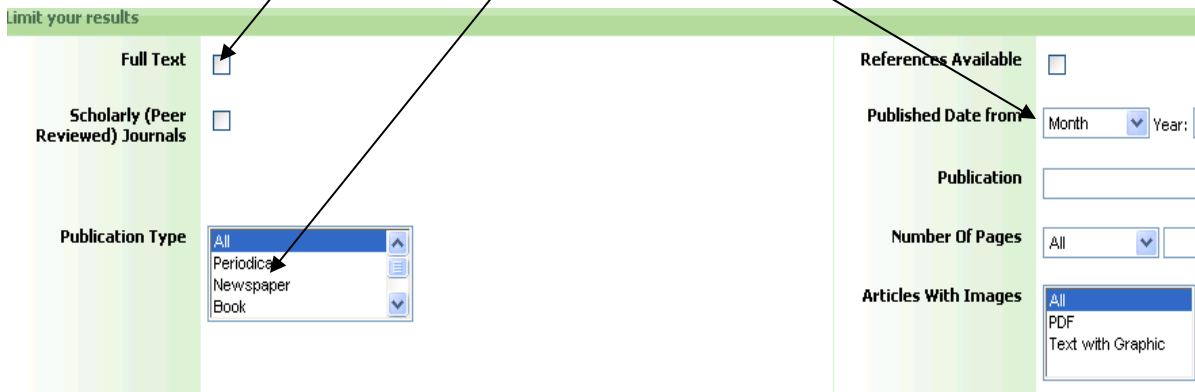


[Search Options](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Visual Search](#) | [Search History/Alerts](#) | [Preferences »](#)

Each database will have a main box to enter your search terms.

Most will offer an **Advanced Search** function that will provide multiple search boxes for more complex searches

Most databases will offer limit options that allow you to focus your search by limiting to specific dates, publication type, scholarly journals, etc.



Almost all databases contain some sort of help section that will provide information and tips on how to search that particular resource.

The search results below show citations to three articles. These citations include important bibliographic information about the article including title, author, publication title, date, volume, issue, and pages. This information is important for being able to get back to a particular article and for the purposes of citing the article.

9. [An Activist's Crusade Against Turkey's Head-Scarf Ban.](#)

By: Wilhelm, Ian. Chronicle of Philanthropy, 9/4/2008, Vol. 20 Issue 22, p22-22, 1p; (AN 34209255)
[HTML Full Text](#)
[Add to folder](#)

10. [Gender and Australian Aid Policy: can *women's rights* be advanced with](#)

By: Kilby, Patrick; Olivieri, Kate. Australian Journal of International Affairs, Sep 2008, Vol. 54 Issue 3, p311-313, 3p; (AN 33522583)
 Abstract Only
[Add to folder](#) | Cited References: (28)
[Find it @ NU](#)

11. [Women's Rights and Transatlantic Antislavery in the Era of Emancipation.](#)

By: Ginzberg, Lori D.. Civil War History, Sep2008, Vol. 54 Issue 3, p311-313, 3p; (AN 32600116)
[PDF Full Text](#) (45KB)
[Add to folder](#)

This citation only has the abstract available. In this case, you would want to click the Find it @ NU button to check if the full text is available in another database.

Two of these articles have the full text available. One has the transcribed HTML full text and the other has a PDF image of the article.

How do I find the full text of an article if I have a citation?

If you already have the citation for the article, you have the information you need to find the article in the library. Search in NUcat, the library's online catalog, for the title of the journal, magazine, or newspaper.

The screenshot shows the NUcat search interface with three tabs: Search, Guided Search, and Course Reserve. The Search tab is active. On the left, under 'Find This:', there is a text input field containing 'journal of psychology'. Below it, under '3. Limit to (optional):', there is a dropdown menu set to 'No limits'. On the right, under '2. Search in:', there is a dropdown menu with several options: 'Keyword (use "and, or, not")', 'Keyword Phrase', 'Title (omit articles at the beginning of title--A, An, The, etc.)', 'Journal Title (omit articles at beginning of title--A, An, The, etc.)', 'Author (last name, first name)*', 'Subject Heading*', and 'Call Number*'. The 'Journal Title' option is highlighted in blue. At the bottom, there is a '25 records per page' dropdown, a 'Search' button, and a 'Reset' button.

A common mistake is searching for the title of the article in NUcat instead of the title of the periodical. NUcat does not search on the article level, but you can get to journals that contain the articles.

Make sure you are searching for the title of the periodical. Use the Journal Title search.

If the library has more than one periodical or multiple copies that match the title, you will see a Titles Display listing those periodicals. This will also occur if we have the journal in print and electronically.

Title <	Author	Publication Date
American journal of public health.		1971-
Multiple copies--check record		
American journal of public health.		
Location: MAIN Library Call Number: 614.05 A512		Status: Multiple items--check record
American journal of public health.		1971-
Multiple copies--check record		

For ***American Journal of Public Health***, you will find numerous records that show our print and electronic holdings in all of the Northwestern Libraries. The record below for ***American Journal of Public Health*** indicates that it is available electronically in a number of databases. In most cases, links should be provided in the NUcat record that indicate from which database the e-journal is available and what span of years are covered by that database.

American journal of public health JPH / American Public Health Association.

Uniform title: [American journal of public health \(Online\)](#)
Title: American journal of public health [electronic resource] : JPH / American Public Health Association.
Extent of publication: Began with v. 61, no. 1 (Jan. 1971).
Publisher: New York, N.Y. : American Public Health Association
Frequency: Monthly
Description: v. : ill. ; 25 cm.
Access details: (ACCESS RESTRICTED to the Northwestern University community. Each use is for individual, noncommercial use, without systematically DOWNLOADING, DISTRIBUTING, or REPRODUCING information.)

Link to resource(s) by clicking here: [Full text for 1975- available from EBSCOhost Academic Search Premier](#)
[Full text for 1995 \(v.85 no.1\)-2003 \(v.93 no.9\) available from Journals@Ovid](#)
[Full text for 1975- available from EBSCOhost Business Source Premier](#)
[Full text for 1975- available from EBSCOhost Professional Development Collection](#)
[Full text for 1992- available from Proquest ABI/INFORM Global](#)
[Full text for 1912 \(v.2 no.1\)- except most recent 24 months available from Highwire Press Free E-Journals](#)
[Full text for 1975- available from EBSCO Health Source NursingAcademic Edition](#)
[Full text for 1971 \(v.61\)-2005 \(v.95 no.4\) available from PubMed Central](#)

Notes: Description based on print version record.
 Place varies: Washington, D.C., <Sept. 1976->
 Latest issue consulted: Vol. 61, no. 6 (June 1971).

Other title: AJPH
Earlier title: [Click here to view related records](#)
Continues in part: American journal of public health and the nation's health 0002-9572

Library of Congress subject headings: [Public health --Periodicals.](#)
[Public health --United States --Periodicals.](#)

Medical subject headings: [Public Health --Periodicals.](#)
Transportation subject headings: [Gezondheidszorg.](#)

Index terms: Health Sciences - General and Others
 Information Technology - Healthcare Database & Medical Informatics


Links that show the years covered and the database that is providing access

The **Long View** of each record will include complete **call number** and **location** information, as well as information about which **volumes** and **issues** the library owns if it is available in print.

Location: MAIN Library
Other information: (ALSO AVAILABLE IN MICROFORM) subscription cancelled
 This title does not circulate
Call number: 614.05 A512
Library has: v.61-64(1971-1974)
 v.65(no.1,4-9,11-12)(1975,jan,apr-sept,nov-dec) (temp-bound)
 v.66-83(1976-1993)
 v.84 (1994)-v.95 (2005)
Current issues: v.95:no.S1(2005:Supplement 1)

Accessing electronic journals or periodicals

The library has a large and growing collection of e-journals, which should all be listed in NUcat. The blue "**Link inside**" icon in the last column of a Title screen indicates that an electronic version is available.

Status: No item data available				
alic		-[1927]	NU Libraries	
Status: No item data available				

You can also access e-journal through our [Electronic Resources](#) webpage by clicking on the link to Find e-Journal.

Find e-Journal

Title / Category / Locate

0-9 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z Others

Title: Starts with Contains

Go

You can search by the title or browse by the first letter of the e-journal

OR

Title / **Category** / Locate

Category

Arts and Humanities	All subcategories (5407)
Business, Economy and Management	Architecture, Fine and Decorative Arts (229)
Chemistry	Current Events & News (782)
Earth Sciences	Education & Careers (1134)
Engineering	Fashion & Entertainment (149)
Environmental Sciences	General and Others (1586)
Health Sciences	History (827)

SubCategory

Go

You can also browse by category and subcategory

Please keep in mind that the e-Journal section will not display our print holdings to resources. For complete holdings that include both print and electronic formats, search [NUcat](#) by Journal Title.

Physically locating journals or periodicals in print in Northwestern libraries

Most current issues of periodicals held by the MAIN Library can be found in the Periodicals and Newspapers Reading Room on Level 1 unless otherwise stated in NUcat. Current issues are arranged in alphabetical order.

Older, non-current issues of periodicals in the MAIN Library are located in call number order in the research towers on levels 3, 4, and 5. NUcat will display the location MAIN for these items. To locate call numbers for older issues within the MAIN Library building, refer to the [online guide to the book stacks](#).

Call number location charts are also posted throughout the library, both inside the elevators and in the elevator lobbies, and are available at every service desk. Be certain to note whether or not a call number has an "L" in front of it. This indicates that the journal is in the Large Books section of its particular tower. L (large) books are shelved to the right of the entrance in each tower.

Other locations with periodical collections in the Main Library include **Africana**, the **Art Library**, the **Music Library**, **Special Collections**, **Government Information** and the **Transportation Library**.

Please note that not all government serials are currently represented in NUcat. Staff in the Government Information department can help you determine whether or not the library has a particular government periodical.

If the periodical you need is located outside of the MAIN Library, please refer to the directory of [Libraries and Collections](#). The **Science & Engineering Library**, located on the north part of campus, houses issues of journals in the sciences.

You may request a copy of an article via the **Main Library Interlibrary Loan Department** from a periodical located at the **Galter Health Sciences Library**, **Pritzker Legal Research Center** or **Schaffner Library** on the Chicago campus. Fill out this [Interlibrary Loan](#) form to submit a request.

What if I cannot find the periodical I am looking for?

If a particular periodical or issue of a periodical that you need is not listed in NUcat either in print or electronically, it may not be owned by Northwestern. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask for assistance at the **Reference Department**, **847-491-7656** or refdept@northwestern.edu

If an article from a periodical is not available at Northwestern, you can place an Interlibrary Loan request by filling out and submitting this [Interlibrary Loan](#) form

How can I tell if an article is scholarly vs. popular?

	Scholarly Publications	Popular Publications
Author	Noted expert in the field or academic discipline. Credentials usually included.	Journalist, popular author, or may not be listed.
Language / Audience	Written in the scholarly or technical jargon of the field.	Written in non-technical language for anyone to understand.
Purpose	Discusses a narrower topic within a scholarly field, e.g. economics, medicine, literature, history, etc.	Discusses current events or general information on a topic for which little or no expertise is required.
Review and documentation	Reviewed by peers or other experts within the same field. List of references or bibliography included.	Reviewed by editor or editorial board of the publication in which article is published. References not necessarily included.
Examples	<i>Harvard Business Review, Journal of Social Issues, American Journal of Psychology, Nature, Lancet</i>	<i>People, Time, Newsweek, New York Times, Sports Illustrated</i>

How do I format my article citations for my bibliography?

The Reference Department has many guides to citation format. There are a few [quick guides](#) available electronically and there are also various citation manuals in print at the reference desk.

Citation management software

[EndNote](#) is a software program designed to store and manipulate bibliographic information. With

EndNote you can:

- store references in one place
- keep reading notes linked to sources (no more index cards!)
- download citations directly from databases
- automatically format bibliographies and citations in MLA, APA, Chicago Manual of Style, or over 1000 other styles.