

Journal Databases Guide

Common questions about Journal Databases

What type of information do journal databases contain?

When you need to find information for an assignment or research topic, search the databases by keyword to obtain a list of journal articles that have been written on that topic. Some databases even provide the complete articles from some of their journals (known as "full-text articles").

Can you tell me more about full-text articles?

Many of our databases provide the complete journal article online which you can print out, save to disk or email to yourself. Search our databases to come up with a list of references on your topic. Those articles that are available in full-text will be indicated.

What is the difference between "HTML full-text" and "PDF Full-text"?

A full-text article in HTML format will look just like a text webpage, while a full-text article in PDF format is the actual scanned graphic image of the article from the journal. Because it's a graphic image, the PDF version will be a larger file, which may take longer to load and print than the HTML version.

How do I know which journals are available full-text online?

Check our Periodical Holdings List. It lists all of the journals that are available in either print format in the Schurz Library, or electronically on one of our databases.

How do I know which database to search?

You can ask a Reference Librarian for assistance, click on the subject listings on our Reference and Research page under "Resources by Subject" to search for a database in your subject area, or you can click on a particular database and read through the help screens to find out more about the database.

How can I get help on how to use the different databases?

User guides and help screens are available on most of the journal databases. If you need further help just contact a Reference Librarian at 574.520.4441 or refquest@iusb.edu.

What do I do when I have a list of references to journal articles?

When you know a specific journal title you check its availability on the Periodical Holdings List, which is the definitive list of all of the journals that are available in either print format in the Schurz Library, or electronically on one of our databases.

What if you don't have the article I need?

You can order a journal article through our Interlibrary Loan service. When the article arrives, it will be delivered as a PDF to your interlibrary loan (ILLiad) account.

If you have a disability and need assistance, special arrangements can be made to accommodate most needs. Please contact Julie Elliott at 520-4410 for assistance.