Where do I start? – Finding journal articles

Find a known article
If you have the article details, follow the instructions for finding journals on the separate guide called 'Where do I start: Finding books and journals'.

Use databases to search for articles
- Databases are the main tool for finding journal articles on a particular topic.
- Databases contain details (author, title, abstract etc.) of journal articles and other scholarly material such as conference papers.

Search databases through SUPrimo
You can use the 'Articles + databases' search tab in SUPrimo https://suprimo.lib.strath.ac.uk/ to search hundreds of millions of online journal articles and other electronic resources, many of which are full text. You can also search for the individual database in SUPrimo (Library Collections tab)

Find individual databases – alphabetical list
If you know the name of the database, you can use the A-Z list at: http://guides.lib.strath.ac.uk/az.php Click on the name of the database to access it.
Find individual databases - subject pages
If you don’t know which database you need, you can use the subject pages at: [http://guides.lib.strath.ac.uk](http://guides.lib.strath.ac.uk)

- Select Science and then the subject, for example Pharmacy
- You will then see a list of Key Databases and Additional Databases, together with a description of each database.
- Click on the name of the database to access it.

Search individual databases
You can search databases in a number of ways: by topic/keyword/subject, by author, by journal title etc. You can limit your search by year, type of material, language, to particular fields etc.

- Think about the terms used to describe your topic.
- Join your search terms with Boolean logic (AND, OR, NOT) to make your search statement.
- Use quotation marks (in Web of Science) to search for an exact phrase.
- Use truncation (usually * depending on the database) to search for all terms beginning with a particular stem (e.g. metal* to find metal, metals, metallic, metallurgy).
- Some databases, such as SciFinder and Medline and Embase basic search from Ovid, offer natural language searching.

In this screenshot, we are carrying out a topic search of the Science Citation Index part of the Web of Science Core Collection database for e-coli or escherichia coli and “antimicrobial resistance”

Help with searching databases

- Database help – select the help icon next to the database name on the A-Z list or the subject pages.
- Subject Librarian - contact the Science Faculty Librarian at: [https://www.strath.ac.uk/library/yourfacultylibrarian/](https://www.strath.ac.uk/library/yourfacultylibrarian/)
Get the full article

From your database search results, click on the button next to each article you wish to find. You can then see if the full-text of the article is available electronically, or check SUPrimo and the catalogues of other local libraries for print copies. If the database doesn’t have a button or another full text link, you will need to look up the journal title on SUPrimo to check if the journal is available electronically and/or in print. For more details, see the separate guide called ‘Where do I start: Finding books and journals’.

Get items not stocked by University of Strathclyde Library

Check availability at other local libraries:

- Check other library catalogues at: [http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/eresources/librarycatalogues/](http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/eresources/librarycatalogues/)
- Strathclyde students have reference-only access to other university libraries in the West of Scotland. In addition, you may be eligible to apply for borrowing rights, either via special reciprocal arrangements [http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/usinglibraryservices/reciprocalaccess/](http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/usinglibraryservices/reciprocalaccess/) or via the SCONUL Access scheme [http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/usinglibraryservices/sconulaccess/](http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/usinglibraryservices/sconulaccess/)

Inter-Library Loan

- Final year honours students and postgraduates can get items not available at Strathclyde or locally through inter-library loan [http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/usinglibraryservices/ils/](http://www.strath.ac.uk/library/usingthelibrary/usinglibraryservices/ils/)

Further help

- See the Journals: how to find and use journal articles LibGuide: [http://guides.lib.strath.ac.uk/journals](http://guides.lib.strath.ac.uk/journals)

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