How to Find Articles Using Library Databases

Using a web browser, start at the Library’s website:  https://library.lanecc.edu

Then click on “Find Articles & Databases”

Start Your Research

- Find Articles & Databases

You can search many of our databases at once. We subscribe to two large collections: EBSCO and Gale. We recommend you try EBSCO first, then try Gale if EBSCO isn’t working out. Enter your search terms in either the EBSCO or Gale blank. Remember to keep it simple!

Both our EBSCO and Gale collections contain articles from newspapers, magazines, and journals. We also offer useful databases that are not included in either collection. You can scroll down on the page to take a look at our other databases.

After you perform a search, if you only want to see peer-reviewed articles, look for a "Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals" or "Academic Journals" link and click on it.

If you get too many results, you can refine or limit your search. You can sort your results so that the newest articles appear at the top: or specify the dates you want:

One of the most useful ways to refine your results is to click on one of the “Subjects” listed to the side of your results. Subjects are like file folder headings. For example, if I’m searching for articles about Martin Luther King, I might get many that only mention him, but aren’t all about him. If I click on him as a subject, then the database will exclude articles that aren’t focused on him.

To request this information in an alternate format please contact the Center for Accessible Resources at (541) 463-5150 or accessibleresources@lanecc.edu.
Database Search Tips

You are probably used to searching Google. But databases are different animals, and if you search them as if they are Google you might not find much. Here are some quick tips:

**Spelling counts.** Some databases won’t correct your spelling, so if you come up with zero results, maybe you just misspelled something.

**Keep it simple.** Search for only two or three words at a time, not whole sentences.

**Some words belong together.** If you are searching for articles that contain a particular phrase, like “back pain,” be sure to put quotation marks around the words you want to stay together. Otherwise, you might get articles that don’t mention “back pain.” Instead they mention the word *back* in one part of the article and the word *pain* in another part.

**Try this wild trick.** If you are using a word that has more than one different ending, like *prescribe* or *prescription*, type just the first part of the word, then put an asterisk (*) right next to it, like this: **prescri***. Then you’ll get articles that mention either word. This technique is called *truncation*. Just think how many words start with *psych*!

**Only the important words.** Only use the words that most describe your topic, not other topics. For example, you wouldn’t want to use the words *the, an, a, or, for, of, from, to,* or even *effects or how*. These words could be applied to any topic, so they usually won’t help.

**Try, try again.** If your search doesn’t bring back enough results the first time, use other words that mean similar things or change the focus just slightly.

**Wikipedia can help.** If you’re not sure what words to use, check other websites like Wikipedia or a thesaurus or an online Library encyclopedia to find words to search for in the databases. As you search, you’ll find more words. Write them down as you go.

**Envision your perfect article.** What words would be in the title of the article or in its summary? A good strategy is to write down a question that describes what you want to know:

*Should the main purpose of a college education be job training or personal enrichment?*

Start with the important words: *college* and *job training* and *personal enrichment*, then brainstorm other synonyms or related concepts. Here are examples, but there are more:

- **colleg**e
- **university**
- “**higher education**”
- **undergraduate**
- “**community college**”
- **“job training”**
- **employment**
- **careers**
- **technical**
- **professional**
- “**personal enrichment**”
- **“continuing education”**
- **“lifelong learning”**
- **“liberal education”**
- **“liberal arts”**

Different authors describe the same thing in different ways depending on who they are writing for and the context of the article. Each of these words and phrases in different combinations will bring back different search results. Here are some example searches:

- **college “job training”**
- **university “liberal arts”**
- “**community college**” technical