

Using Sawyer Library Databases

<p>Journal publishers often provide access to their material from their Web site only for a fee. Some publishers may provide online access through information providers or vendors. These vendors will charge institutions or individuals for access rights to this information through their databases. Databases, particularly periodical databases, are one of the most useful search tools for students working on course-required assignments. To support the academic needs of Suffolk University, the Library currently subscribes to more than 80 databases. These databases provide access to full-text journal articles, journal and dissertation abstracts, newspapers, and more.</p>	<p>Student Access to Databases: Library databases are only available to current Suffolk University students, faculty, and staff, so they are not freely available to the public. A student may access them from on or off-campus via the Sawyer Library home page (http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/sawyer.htm). Simply click on Databases by Subject. Databases are arranged by subject and by title. Searching by journal title is also available. If you are off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your name and current Suffolk University ID number. See Information About All Databases (A-Z List of Databases) (http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/databases.htm) for more detailed descriptions of each resource.</p>		
<p>Searching Methods: Keyword Searching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keywords may search title, author, subject, abstract, or even full-text content • Use as an initial search, and search with words or a simple phrase • Keyword searching may retrieve some irrelevant items <p>Subject Searching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A subject search involves searching the subject headings of records in a database • Each database maintains its own headings • You must know what the subject headings are to use them • Subject headings are produced by editors and are, therefore, added slowly <p>Title Searching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May use full or partial title • Ignore articles, such as “a” or “the” at the beginning of a title <p>Author Searching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Search by personal name: author, artist, composer or by institution: government, organization • Type last name first then add first name or initial 	<p>Scholarly vs. Popular Articles: Scholarly journal means that the information has gone through a review process by subject specialists in a particular field. Many Library databases have a limiting button, where you can limit your search to peer reviewed or refereed results. Check with your instructor regarding his policy on using scholarly or popular publications.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="732 1150 1360 1808" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="732 1150 1036 1808"> <p>Scholarly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Authors are researchers and discipline experts -Always includes bibliography -Content is research -Publisher is association or university -Purpose is to disseminate research -Articles are reviewed by a scholar -Example-<i>American Economic Review</i> </td> <td data-bbox="1036 1150 1360 1808"> <p>Popular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Authors are staff writers or unsigned -Includes no bibliography -Content is general interest or news -Publisher is commercial organization -Purpose is to disseminate general news or to entertain -No review by experts -Example- <i>Newsweek</i> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Scholarly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Authors are researchers and discipline experts -Always includes bibliography -Content is research -Publisher is association or university -Purpose is to disseminate research -Articles are reviewed by a scholar -Example-<i>American Economic Review</i> 	<p>Popular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Authors are staff writers or unsigned -Includes no bibliography -Content is general interest or news -Publisher is commercial organization -Purpose is to disseminate general news or to entertain -No review by experts -Example- <i>Newsweek</i>
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