

## Academic Search Premier Tutorial

This quick tutorial will show you how to find magazine and journal articles using the library's databases.

We'll get into the library databases from the library's homepage by either clicking on Research Databases or Find Articles. You can see that there are databases covering a variety of topics. One database that is going to work well for almost any topic that you might have is Academic Search Premier.

Since I'm on campus, I get right into the database. If I were off campus, I'd be prompted to enter my student id number and my password.

The database starts us off with a keyword search. I'll plug in offshore and oil. You can see that I got over 4000 hits. I could start looking through those hits; it looks like many of the ones we see here would be useful. However, 4000 hits is also a lot to browse through and there are some really good ways to narrow this down.

Over on the left hand side of the page, you can see that there is an option to limit results to full text. Full text just means that we can actually get the entire article right here in the database. If we can scan through the results, you can see that most of these articles have a link to the full text. You can click there to start reading the article. If there's no link to the full text, we can't actually get the article through this database. If you find an article that looks really good and there's no full text, you can ask a librarian if there's some other way to get it. Since we have so many hits for this search though, it would make sense just to look at the full text ones.

We could also narrow our results by date. For this topic, I'm probably not interested in results from the 1950's. I'll just drag that slider over to 2005 and I'll update my results.

Another way to narrow down a search when you've got thousands of hits is to narrow by subject. I'll click on subject: thesaurus term. All of these articles use the words offshore and oil, but in some, that won't be the focus of the article. I could click on offshore oil well drilling to narrow my results to articles that are truly on that topic.

Once you have a manageable number of hits, you can start scanning through your results. Anything that looks like a possibility, we can just click on the title. That will take us to the abstract. The abstract is a summary of the article. We'll read that summary and if we think the article is useful, we can click on the full text link to get into the article or we can print, or save, or email the article to ourselves.

When you do print or email an article, you can make the database create a citation for the article. You can select APA or MLA, whichever your instructor prefers. The database does sometimes make errors, so you do need to double check the citations, but having the database create the citation will save you a lot of time.

I hope this tutorial was helpful. It was just an introduction so please consult with a librarian if you're not having success. You can find all the different ways you can contact a librarian on the library's Get Help page.