



Butte College Library

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Ask-a-Librarian: 530-879-4024

<http://www.butte.edu/library/>

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ASK A LIBRARIAN

- In person at reference desk or by appointment during open hours
- By telephone: 530-879-4024
- Via email online
- Online chat 24 hours a day: [Ask-A-Librarian](#) link on every library page

GETTING TO THE SCHOLARLY DATABASES FROM OFF-CAMPUS

Path: Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Combined databases → [choose a database]

Off-Campus Access

1. You will be automatically prompted to enter a user name and password if you try to access the databases from off campus.
2. Enter your username: this is your last name plus the first two letters of your first name – entered as one word without spaces.
3. Enter your password: this is last four digits of your student ID.
For example, Jane Smith with Student ID #9834765 would be:
smithja
4765
3. Click *Submit Query*.

SEARCHING THE DATABASES FOR SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

STEP 1: Picking the right database and setting limiters

Path: Library Homepage → Search for Articles → Combined databases → [choose a database]

EBSCOHost

Use the check boxes to select *Academic Search Premier*, *MasterFILE Premier*, *Psychology and Behavioral Sciences Collection*, *Religion and Philosophy Collection*

- Use the checkboxes in advanced search to limit to *Full-text* and *Scholarly (Peer-reviewed)*
- You can also limit by publication name if you know we own it (see **E-JOURNALS BY TITLE**, below)

JSTOR

- JSTOR is a scholarly archive. The articles in here are scholarly, but also are at least 3-5 years old.
- Click *Advanced Search*, located beneath the search box
- Limit your search using the following check boxes:
 - **INCLUDE ONLY CONTENT I CAN ACCESS**
 - **INCLUDE LINKS TO EXTERNAL CONTENT**
 - **NARROW BY → ITEM TYPE → ARTICLE**

ProQuest

- Use the checkboxes in advanced search to limit to *Full-text documents only* and to *Scholarly including peer-reviewed*
- You can also limit by publication name by looking up the publication name using the *Look up publications* link
- Exclude from results using the following check boxes (**ERROR IN PROQUEST: If you exclude Book Reviews, Dissertations, and Newspapers, ignore the suggested topics above the results**).
 - **BOOK REVIEWS**
 - **DISSERTATIONS**
 - **NEWSPAPERS**
- Sort results by *Most relevant first*, not Most recent

STEP 2: Building your search terms

Choosing the search terms and additional limiters

- Start with one or two keywords in your search, not a natural language sentence (Example: ***zombies AND culture***)
- Limit your results to **full-text** and **scholarly/peer-reviewed/refereed**
- The more words you use in your search with AND, the fewer results you will get.
- The more words you use with OR, the more results you will get.
Example: ***zombi* AND (“pop culture” OR “popular culture” OR “mass media”)***
- You can narrow your search by using the drop-down menu to limit to SUBJECT or ABSTRACT
Hint: Any academic discipline or large geographic area is very likely going to be a subject term.
- You can broaden your search by limiting to TEXT (sometimes called DOCUMENT TEXT)
- You can also limit by date

Phrase Searching

- Use “quotation marks” to retrieve multiple words denoting single concept. (e.g. “popular culture”). Searches for words as single term with no additional words between. Brings back that **exact** phrase.

Truncation

- Use (*) to retrieve all forms of root word (e.g. zombi* = zombi, zombie, zombies, zombification). Especially useful for retrieving both singular and plural form of keywords.

Wildcard

- The wildcard is usually represented by a question mark ?
- To use the ? wildcard, enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?. The database finds all citations of that word with the ? replaced by a letter.
 - For example, type ***ne?t = neat, nest or next***. You will not find ***net*** because the wildcard replaces a single character.

Boolean Operators

Use Boolean Operators to narrow or broaden your keyword searches

AND – narrows a search

- searches only for articles containing both terms
- best used to retrieve more focused results

OR – broadens a search

- searches for articles containing either term (as well as articles containing both)
- best used for synonyms or close subjects (e.g., “pop culture” OR “popular culture”)

NOT – narrows a search

- searches for first term, filtering out second
- best for eliminating ‘false hits’ that occur when words have multiple meanings (e.g., zombies NOT “book reviews”)
- Use NOT in the last row only...it excludes all words that come after the term, NOT

Database features

- Each database is different in its subject headings and interface.
- Look for the PDF, full-text, or PDF full text link to open the article
- You can print, save, email, listen to, or download articles
- You can find out how to **cite** the articles
- Find an article perfect for your topic? Use the **suggested subject terms** located on the left, right, or bottom of the article to search further on that topic
- Some databases let you combine suggested subjects to create a new search from a relevant article.
- Use the **subject thesaurus** to look for the controlled index of terms used in that database for your keywords
- **Help menu**: Your best friend

E-JOURNALS BY TITLE: HAVE THE NAME OF THE JOURNAL OR A CITATION? NEED FULL-TEXT?

Library Homepage → Search for Articles → E-journal Titles → FIND by title

By far the best way to search keywords or subjects is in the larger databases, and not at the journal level. But, if you would like to “see” and “flip through” our journal collections, you can still do this with E-Journals.

If we hold that journal, follow the links for **Academic Search Premier, Wilson** or **JSTOR** to browse the journal for ideas by clicking the links for each year and issue. NOTE: If you follow the **Proquest** link, you'll need to re-enter the name of the journal using the [Look up publications](#) link found under [More Search Options](#)

You can then search only within that journal. Build slowly while searching the journals, start with one or two terms, for example, “**bart simpson.**” If you are already searching a specialized media journal, you won't need to use terms like: mass media, television, popular culture, etc. For a general journal, you will.

Browsing E-Journals by subject or keyword

Sometimes we own the journal you want and sometimes not.

You may find **other journals with your keywords** (e.g., *television*) in the title or by a **subject search** of journals.

To do a subject search, go to: **Library Homepage → Search for Articles → E-journal Titles**

Use the drop down menu below [Browse E-journals by subject](#) to select [Journalism & Communications](#) → [Communication & Mass Media](#) for the search box. Hit search, then click down to the subject you find of interest and browse the journals just like you would if they were sitting on the shelf.

A FEW OF PROFESSOR GRUBER'S SUGGESTED JOURNALS AVAILABLE AT BUTTE COLLEGE

- **Journal of Popular Culture** in Academic Search Premier, Proquest, & Wilson (1988 to current)
- **Journal of American Culture** in Academic Search, Wilson, & Proquest,
- **Journal of Popular Film and Television** in Academic Search Premier, Wilson, and ProQuest

OTHER RESOURCES

Non-scholarly resources (popular magazines and newspapers)

Issues & Controversies on File → select 'issues & controversies'

- to browse for ideas, use 'quick access' links
- to search, enter keywords in white search box (Boolean 'AND' is implied)

CQ Researcher

- to browse for ideas, click 'browse by topic'
- to search, enter keywords in quick search box (Boolean 'AND' is implied)

SIRS

- to browse for ideas
 - **Top 10 PRO vs. CON** leading issues – click “**more issues**” to expand to top 100, OR click on 'topic browse' tab
 - EXAMPLE: Mass media → Popular culture
- narrowing your topic
 - Use the subject descriptors (blue links after each summary) as keyword searches
 - Use the suggested keywords below the summary:
 - e.g., [Feminism](#), [Propaganda](#), [Public opinion](#), [Sexism](#), [State rights](#), [Women in mass media](#), [Women's rights](#)

Web Resources

Neilsen ratings for television radio, etc.: <http://www.nielsen.com>

Billboard for ratings on music: www.billboard.com

Yahoo! Movies for box office results: <http://movies.yahoo.com/mv/boxoffice/>

Best-selling books for teens at Amazon (often end up as movies or TV series):

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/bestsellers/books/28>

Interlibrary loan: Request articles not held by Butte using the online request form or by visiting LB 211