

Writtle College Library

Research pt 4: Finding journal articles



This guide will help you find journal articles for your assignments or dissertation.

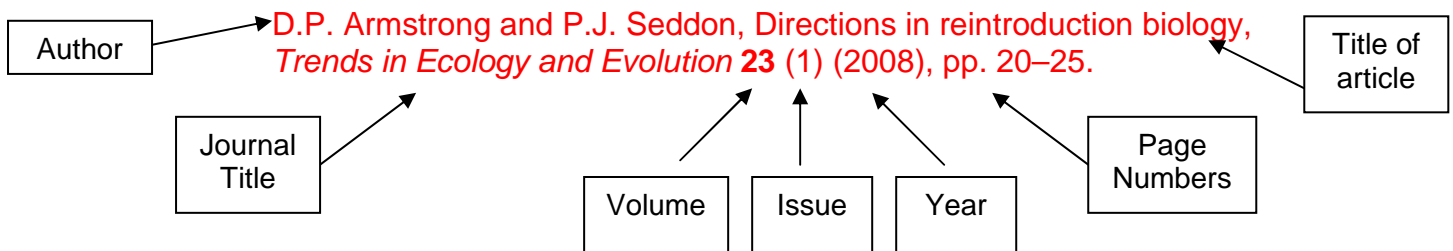
Types of journals

Before you start searching for journal articles, it is helpful to know what they are.

- Journals have a number of different types and names. These include: magazines, serials, periodicals, newspapers, bulletins and proceedings. Basically, they are anything that is published regularly in a series of volumes.
- An article is one of a number of papers published in an issue of a journal.
- Articles in journals can range from articles on popular or topical issues through to in-depth scholarly works.

It is important to use journal articles because they can contain the most current research and information on your topic. Sometimes this material is not published in books at all!

This is what a reference, or citation, for a journal article can look like:



What are scholarly journals?

You need to assess the quality of any work before using and referencing it in an assignment. Ideally, you are looking for scholarly works that have been peer reviewed. Before it can be considered for publication, a journal article, in a peer reviewed journal, is read by other experts in the field and checked for accuracy and proper academic methods and standards.

Once you have obtained material, make sure you evaluate it.

Here is a checklist to help you. The more "Yes" ticks the better!

This journal:	Yes	No
is refereed or peer-reviewed		
contains articles that have a bibliography, in-text citations or footnotes		
includes an abstract for each article		

is published by an academic press, scholarly organisation or society		
has authors who have academic credentials		
has few advertisements, usually limited to academic interests		
contains articles that use the language or jargon of the discipline and formal academic writing rather than colloquialisms		
reports on original research and contains substantial articles longer than a few pages.		

Some of the ways you can check for these details include:

- looking to see the publisher's name, editorial board and rules of submitting articles. In a print journal, this information will be on the inside cover; in an e-journal, it will be on the website.
- using the Library's catalogues and databases to see if the authors have written other scholarly works.

Types of journal articles

There are two main types of articles contained in a journal.

1. Papers reporting original research
 - May be peer-reviewed
 - Primary source as the author(s) are describing their own original work.
2. Review articles
 - Broad picture of the work done in a particular area
 - Secondary source as author(s) are summarising others' work.

The bibliography in these articles is useful for guiding you to other relevant research.

How to find journal articles

You can find articles in journals by using databases and e-journal collections.

Databases:

- provide access to the content of journals within broad or specific subjects areas
- also index collections of essays, conferences papers, websites, book reviews and research reports

- sometimes provide full-text versions of articles, and
- allow researchers to identify and locate key journals in their subject areas.

However, not all publications indexed are held in the library. You will need to check the Library's Catalogue <http://library.writtle.ac.uk> to see if we subscribe to them.

E-journals are similar to databases but more often lead to the full-text of an article. You can use e-journals and databases from any computer connected to the Internet.

The link to the library's electronic journals can be found on the library pages of Moodle <http://moodle.writtle.ac.uk>

The screenshot shows a Moodle page titled "Electronic Journals and Databases". The page contains a list of resources with a callout box pointing to the "Electronic full-text journals via EBSCO" link.

Electronic Journals and Databases

The following is a list of journals and databases that the library subscribes to. Most will require you to log in with your own personal Athens password.

To get a full list of databases the library has access to - log in to www.athens.ac.uk with your personal Athens password and click on Resources. This may also help if you are having problems accessing any of the resources

- Acta Horticulturae - On campus access only
- AGRICOLA - free resource
- API - Architectural Periodical Index - free resource
- Art & Architecture Complete
- Business Source Premier (Previously Elite)
- Cambridge Journals Digital Archive
- Digimap - Ordnance Survey Collection, Geology Digimap & Historic Digimap
- Digimap help guides
- Electronic full-text journals via EBSCO
- Help on searching Ebsco Full-Text Journals
- Film and Sound Online
- GreenFILE
- Land Life & Leisure
- Mintel

Link to full-text journals via Ebsco

Please see the library's - Introduction to database search skills guide on Moodle for further information.

Selecting the right database

The Library has many databases and e-journals. At this stage you might not know the best ones to use, so check the subject guide on the library pages of Moodle for databases relevant to your course.

You can find a full list of all databases available at Writtle College on the library page of Moodle under the Electronic Journals and Databases section.

What if it's not full-text?

Not all databases will link you to the full-text of articles. Some only give the reference (author, title of article, name of journal, volume, issue and page numbers) or an abstract.

To find the complete article you need to check the Library Catalogue to see if the Library has a subscription to the journal it is published in.

So if you find a reference, for example

TITLE: The changing status of amphibians within Epping Forest

AUTOR: Jarvis, Laurence

SOURCE: British Wildlife, v.20 no.3 Feb 2009: 171-176

Type the title of the journal (British Wildlife) into the "journal" search option in the Catalogue, then check to see what issues we have. The following shows an example of a journal catalogue record.

The image shows a screenshot of a library catalogue record for the journal "British Wildlife". The record includes fields for Standard no., Title, Editor, Imprint, Keywords, Subjects, Associated, Related, Notes, Collation, Frequency, and Holdings. The title "British Wildlife" is highlighted in yellow and labeled "Journal Title". The Holdings section lists various issues with their volume and issue numbers and dates. Two black callout boxes provide additional information: one points to the Holdings section with the text "Take careful note of the library's holdings, i.e., what volumes and issues we have. What we have in print is often different to what you can access electronically", and another points to the Location field with the text "Print copies of journals are held on the shelves upstairs in the library".

Standard no.	09580956	Medium	Journal	Class	P
Title	British Wildlife	Journal Title			
Editor					
Imprint	British Wildlife Publishing, 1992-				
Keywords	Wildlife : By Country : Britain; Job Adverts : Environment; Periodicals : Environment; Periodicals : Wildlife : By Country : Britain				
Subjects					
Associated					
Related					
Notes	(GEN) Indexed on Land Life and Leisure				
Collation					
Frequency	Bimonthly	Issue ID			
Holdings	v.3:no.1 (1991:Oct) - v.3:no.2 (1991:Dec) v.3:no.3 (1992:Feb) - v.5:no.2 (1993:Dec) v.5:no.4 (1994:Apr) - v.6:no.2 (1994:Dec) v.6:no.3 (1995:Feb) - v.10:no.2 (1999:Dec) v.10:no.3 (1999:Feb) - v.16:no.5 (2005:Jun) v.16:no.6 (2005:Aug) - v.18:no.2 (2006:Dec) v.18:no.3 (2007:Feb) - v.19:no.2 (2007:Dec) v.19:no.3 (2008:Feb) - v.20:no.2 (2008:Dec)				
Copy description	Location				
1 Main Library Copy	Periodicals (WAC)				

Take careful note of the library's holdings, i.e., what volumes and issues we have. What we have in print is often different to what you can access electronically

Print copies of journals are held on the shelves upstairs in the library