

Tutorial 10 transcript - Research demonstration

(Part 3 Finding journal articles)

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So in the previous two videos we've had a look at our broad- to mid-range resources on the pyramid there. What I'd like to do now is demonstrate how to search for relevant journal articles. And you'll recall from a previous video on the structure of the UTAS library resources that we find journal articles within journals, and journals, of course, are found within databases.

So before we do that though – again, just a quick reminder of our assignment question we are looking for ... okay. So let's take a look now. We're going to go to the library homepage. And, of course, you can search for journal articles if you want using the Summon search box just there, or, of course, you can use Google Scholar.

What I'm going to demonstrate here today, though, is how to search for journal articles using a database. Because in my opinion the database search is superior; basically it allows you to construct a better search – let me show you what I mean by that.

So if you know the database that you want – if you've had previous experience – the best way to go is to go through the Databases A – Z link there. If you're a bit unsure about which database to use, please do use the Library guides, which I'll demonstrate now.

So, again, our question concerns human rights and international relations and that sort of stuff. So normally I'd go to Government, but, again, this Government guide is under construction, so I'm going to go to the English guide. And, again, navigating with the tabs across the top, I'll find a tab that says: Finding journal articles using databases. So, essentially the value in this tab is to direct you to relevant databases to your particular subject that you're studying.

Now, one of the stronger databases within the social sciences is Proquest; so Proquest is a very good place to start is you're unfamiliar with databases.

So what we're going to look at here when it turns up is basically a similar structure to what we saw when we were doing our advanced search in the library catalogue. We're going to have several boxes into which we will enter our keywords, and we're going to combine them with just the AND operator. So, a very simple, basic database search we're going to do here.

So, I'm just going to put in my keyword: Human Rights AND Universal – I'm going to add Universal to the mix. And also, because it's a database and you're looking for journal articles – very specific content – you can be quite elaborate in search and a lot of different terms. So, I'm actually going to use that term that we came across in our ... when searching the library catalogue, which is: Cultural relativism. And two words there, so I'm going to keep it within the question marks.

And, what it allows me to do: the database ask me where in the journal article I would like to look for these particular key terms. So we saw within the library catalogue that we could look within the Keywords or the Title as well, so we ended up doing that. This time in the journal article— basic structure of a journal article, you have a title, you have an abstract, and then you have the body of

the article. Now the abstract is basically a summary of the entire journal article and everything that's included in it. So, if the journal article is going to be of any use to you, normally you're keywords will probably appear in the abstract.

So what I'm going to do is choose Abstract for all three of those keywords that I've got there. And there are other limiters that you can apply, but I don't want you to worry about the bottom of the screen at the moment. I'm just going to put in those keywords, select where I want to look, and click on search.

Okay, and she's returned ninety-two results there. And ninety-two is probably a little too many; I'd rather have fewer than that, but we'll work on that in just a moment. So you can see you can start to limit by looking at the limiters on the right-hand side there. So things like: you might only choose to return scholarly journals; you might not want newspapers and dissertations or thesis.

So I can click on scholarly journals, and that will reduce my results to sixty-one. And, the other way that you can reduce it as well, is you might like to— if you're an undergrad listening to this: you only have access to what UTAS library subscribes to, so if we don't have the full-text access, you won't have access to the full-text. So, you may like to limit your results only to those that you can view the full-text on.

So I'm just going to go full-text.

So we're down to ten results. That's probably too few. We'd probably want to modify our search so we could expand it a little bit more. But you can see here we've got— already we've got universalism and human rights in the twenty-first century. That's quite good; that might be something we can look at. You can see you can access the PDF there.

Other articles down there we've got: human rights perspectives in Iran. That's a very localised thing. You might not be looking specifically at Iran. You might like to change the location. If you were looking at Australia, for example, you could add Australia as a keyword to your search. And then there are a few others there that we might like to look at.

So what I'd encourage you to do with journal articles is have a look at the title, if it looks relevant, progress to the abstract – so you can have a look at that (there's a link there) – and if the abstract still— if you still think the article is of value having read the abstract, have a look at the full-text.

And that's very basic database searching ... and, yeah ...