Scholarly Journal Articles

Biology 100

How to locate an article in the printed journals: (Journals do not circulate from the library.)

1. We have subscriptions to various journals in the back area of the library. Browse the current issue (on display) or any back issues (under the shelf) to pick an article.
2. You can read the article in the library or make a photocopy of the article to take with you. (Copies are $.10 per page.)

- OR -

Use the databases to search for electronic versions of journal articles:

1. Go to the library’s website: http://academics.tctc.edu/lynx/
2. Look for the “Find Journal Articles” section in the middle of the page. If searching from off-campus, you will be asked for your “T” number.

You will see a list of databases that cover all fields. For this assignment, we recommend you select either:

- Academic Search Premier – Magazine & Journal Articles only
- Academic OneFile – Magazine & Journal Articles only
- You can also choose Special Pages – we have many databases on different subjects that are appropriate for this assignment. In some databases, you must choose the tab labeled “Academic Journals”

3. Click on the name of the database to open it to a screen with a search box.
4. Type your subject term(s) – you may include multiple words - in the search box (ex. lung cancer). There are advanced search features that will allow you to narrow down your search to
a particular subject with specific keywords within the article. Look for this option in each database.

5. **BEFORE** you click the search button to do your search, **you must limit your search in two ways** [Look for the “Limit Search” boxes to select these options, or additional options- such as publication date or range- if appropriate.]

   - **Limit your search to FULL TEXT articles** (This will ensure that your search results are entire articles, rather than just an abstract/summary or citation of the articles.)
   
   - **Limit your search to REFEREEED, PEER REVIEWED, or SCHOLARLY articles** (This will ensure that your search results are from **scientific journals**, which are very different from general magazines.)

6. Look at the list of search results and click on the titles of the journal articles to read the articles.

   *Exception: If you are searching in **Academic Search Premier**, some articles will be in an HTML format and some may be PDF files. If you click on the title of the article from your search results list, you will be directed to a screen with article publication information and related subjects. Then you may have a choice to select either an HTML full text format or a PDF full text format to actually view your article.

7. Scroll to the bottom of the article to look for **REFERENCES** (or WORKS CITED) listed at the end. This is a list of sources that the author(s) of your article consulted in order to write the article. *Almost all scientific articles will have this references listed, but there are exceptions.*

8. After browsing through the article and deciding if it is appropriate, checking that you understand what the article is about and feeling comfortable that you can use the article, you may print it, or e-mail it to your e-mail account and print it later.

   Please look for a **PRINT (or E-Mail) BUTTON** within the margins (top, bottom, or sides) of your article. **In order to have your article formatted correctly when it prints, you MUST use the designated print button**, then go to “File” and then “Print” on the menu in the formatted window of the article.

9. You will need to know the publication information for your article, such as the author of the article, title of the article, title of the journal, the date of publication, page numbers and volume and/or issue numbers for your source citation. *This information is listed on the printed electronic database articles.* Make sure you get this information from any photocopied journal articles, too.

10. **Checklist for your Bio100 scholarly article:**
    
    _____ Full-Text: Is your article complete, and not just an abstract or citation?
    _____ List of References: Is there a list of references at the end of your article?
    _____ Scholarly: Is it from a scientific, refereed, or peer reviewed journal?
    _____ Length: Is the article too short or too long for your summary or assignment?
    _____ Comprehensible: Do you understand the information in the article?