

# FINDING SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

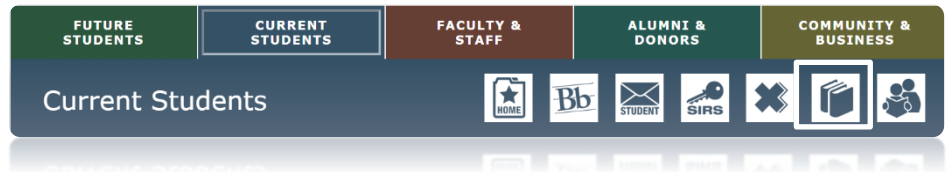
## WHY CAN'T I JUST GOOGLE IT?

Google is a great place to start searching for information, but if you are only using the open Web to do academic-level research, you are missing out. Most scholarly articles are not freely available; they are behind paywalls. The library purchases access to scholarly information. Even Google Scholar will not link to all scholarly articles in the library's databases.

## TO FIND RELIABLE SCHOLARLY MATERIALS, USE THE LIBRARY'S OVER 100 DATABASES.

### HERE'S HOW!

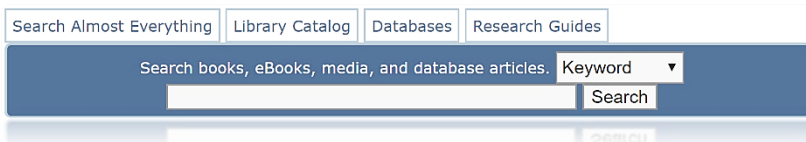
1. GO TO [MVCC.EDU](http://MVCC.EDU) AND SELECT **CURRENT STUDENTS**.



2. CHOOSE THE LIBRARY ICON

3. START YOUR RESEARCH WITH THE **DISCOVERY SEARCH BOX**

- From the library's homepage, you can find scholarly sources with the Discovery Search box.



- A search using the Discovery Search box will return catalog items such as books and DVDs as well as sources available through databases such as scholarly journal, newspaper, and magazine articles.
- The Discovery Search box will NOT search the entire library collection.

4. FOR THE MOST MEANINGFUL SEARCH, **ENTER PHRASES IN "QUOTATION MARKS" AND USE BOOLEAN OPERATORS**

- Uses quotation marks around phrases to ensure the search engine finds a set of words in the exact order you are looking for.
- Use AND, OR, and NOT to narrow or broaden your search.

See the Library's [Search Like a Pro](#) guide for more search tips.

Using **AND** between search terms will yield results that contain both terms.

- E.G. "childhood depression" AND obesity



Using **OR** between search terms will yield results that contain either of the terms.

- E.G. obesity OR overweight



Using **NOT** between search terms will eliminate result that contain the term after NOT.

- E.G. depression NOT postpartum

5. PRESS **ENTER** OR CLICK THE SEARCH BUTTON TO RETRIEVE RESULTS.

6. **REFINE YOUR RESULTS USING THE SEARCH FILTERS ON THE LEFT.**

- Choose **FULL TEXT** to get results you can read immediately.
- For scholarly journal articles, choose **Academic Journals**.
- Adjust the **publication date** slider or type in the year boxes to retrieve the most relevant information.
- Results can be further refined by subject, geography, language, etc.



#### Source Types

- All Results
- Academic Journals (298)
- News (342)
- Magazines (287)
- Trade Publications (49)
- Books (20)

**DON'T STOP THERE!**



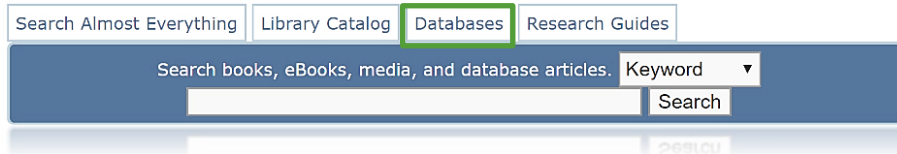
## 7. USE A DATABASE SEARCH TO IMPROVE YOUR RESULTS



A **database search** provides access to additional resources such as journals, high quality images, educational videos, or subject specific reference materials.

### SEARCHING DATABASES

On the library homepage ([mvcc.edu/library](http://mvcc.edu/library)), click the *Databases* tab.



- **IF you know the database you want**, find that database using the alphabet key.
- **IF you want results from multiple disciplines or fields of study**, search multidisciplinary databases like *Academic OneFile* or *Academic Search Complete*. These are the first databases listed on the database page.
- **IF you want results in one discipline or field of study**, search for a subject specific database.
  - Select the **ALL SUBJECTS** dropdown menu to find a database in the subject you are studying.
  - Use a database designated as a **BEST BET** due to its large amount of subject specific content, **OR** read database descriptions to locate the best database for your needs.
- **Choose limitations** for your search (see number 6).
  - Instructors frequently require sources that come from scholarly (peer reviewed) journals.
  - Instructors sometimes request sources published within the last 5 or 10 years.

### WHAT IS A DATABASE?

A database is a collection of information used for research and writing. Some databases provide information from many disciplines while others collect information specific to one area of interest. Many databases are only accessible by subscription. The college subscribes, so you can access historic and up-to-date information.

### SEARCH TIPS

- **CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE?** If you have to make an argument or write a persuasive paper on a controversial topic, try these databases:
  - *Opposing Viewpoints in Context; Issues and Controversies; CQ Researcher.*
- **NO RESULTS!?** Check your spelling, use different search terms, or try a different database.
- **CITATION: Many databases provide citations** for journal articles and other sources.
  - The citation tool appears once a source is selected.
  - The citation tool will look different in different databases but generally appears on a TOOLS menu to the right of the source title.
  - Click on the citation icon, choose the required citation format, and copy or download it.
  - To paste a citation into a Word document, choose the MERGE FORMATTING paste option.
  - **NOTE:** These citations may have errors. Always check your citation with a style guide.

COMMON  
CITATION  
ICONS



### HAVE A QUESTION? NEED ASSISTANCE?



The [CHAT ONLINE](#) feature on the [library's main page](#) allows students to connect with an MVCC librarian during library hours.



Need assistance after hours? Librarians across the country provide [24 hour online support](#). Access their expertise through the library's main page.



Sign up for [tutoring](#). Writing tutors can help you learn how to navigate databases and cite sources.



Go to the [Learning Commons](#). Instructional Design Librarian, Jocelyn Ireland is often on site and provides expert individualized research assistance.