

LUC WRITING CENTER –
“HOW TO FIND RESEARCH ARTICLES ON LIBRARY DATABASES”

To search for and find scientific, peer-reviewed research articles through a database like the Loyola Libraries website, follow these steps:

1. Go to the library's [website](#).
2. **Click in the search box** and **type in your search terms**, such as “case worker client interaction.”
3. You'll get thousands of results (13,411 in this example) but don't panic. In the left-side box it says “**Show-Only.**” In that box, click on “**Peer-reviewed Journals.**” This will make your results **smaller** (12,628 in this example).
4. In the left-side box it says, “**Resource Type.**” **Click on “Articles.”** Again, this will make your results **smaller** (12,010 in this example).
5. In the left-side box it says, “**Publication Date.**” **Narrow the date**, either by typing the dates or dragging the box across. Usually I put “2000-2017” or “2007-2017.” (For the latter date, the results are down to 7,236 in this example.)
6. In the left-side box it says, “**Subject.**” You can choose one of these option-prompts, such as “**Social Work,**” which will bring your results down to 695, which is much more manageable.
7. In the left-side box it says, “**Source Database.**”
8. This will provide a list of **journal collections** such as “SAGE Journals” and “MEDLINE/PubMed (NLM).” Selecting the first of these two brings your results down to 152.
9. If you wish, you can continue to narrow your results by selecting “**Journal Title.**” This will provide a list of journals such as *Journal of social work* and *Qualitative Social Work*. Selecting the first of these two journals brings your results down to 33.
10. Go through your results and **read the titles** to see if they are **relevant to your chosen topic**. If you aren't sure whether they are or not, click on the article and read the **abstract**. The abstract sums up what the article is about without making you spend time reading the whole thing.
11. If you are dissatisfied with your results, remember that you can go back and change the options you selected by **clicking the left back arrow** on Google Chrome or Safari, or any other search browser.

12. To read an article, click on the **“View Online”** option at the left of an article entry below **“Full text available.”** It will say **“Full text available at...”** and then give the name of a database and the campus library you can access it through. **Click** on this database and then **login** on the next screen. The very next screen will give you an option to **“Download PDF.”**

13. To easily **cite** the article, go back to the article entry page (or do this before clicking through to the PDF). Click on the **“View Online”** option at the right of an article entry below **“Full text available.”** Click on **“Save or cite”** on the right-side of the entry box. Among other options such as **“E-mail”** and **“Print,”** you can choose **“Citation.”** **Click** on this and select your **style** (APA 6th edition in this example). Select **“Citation Text”** or highlight the citation and then **copy and paste** the citation to your document below your Works Cited or Bibliography heading.