How Do I Find a Scholarly Article in Psychology?

This handout will show you the basic steps to finding a scholarly article for your Psychology assignment.

Searching by topic:
Visit the Cook Library homepage at http://libraries.towson.edu and choose from one of the library’s many databases. Here are some suggestions and tips for our top tools.

Cook OneSearch
This tool lets you search for articles, book, and more all in one search.
1) Start by typing your topic into the big yellow search box on the library’s homepage.
2) Click “Search”
3) After you search, make sure to check the “Academic Journals” and “Peer Reviewed” check boxes on the left hand side of your results. You can also adjust the date range.
4) Click on a result’s title to read the abstract (a short summary of the article)
5) Look for the PDF Full Text or HTML Full Text links to read the full article. If there is no full text link, click on the “Find it” button to see if we have access in another database or if we have the print copy in the library.
PsycINFO
PsycINFO is the largest Psychology-specific database the library subscribes to.

1) Visit the Cook Library homepage at [http://libraries.towson.edu](http://libraries.towson.edu)
2) Click on the “Database” icon near the center of the website

3) In the alphabetical list, select the letter “P.” Choose “PsycINFO” from the list of “P” databases.
4) In PsycINFO, sometimes you need to break your topic down into different main “parts.” For example, if you want to find an article about treatments for obsessive compulsive disorder, “treatment” and “obsessive compulsive disorder” are the two main ideas. Put one main idea in each of the search boxes.
5) Click “Search.”
6) After you search, make sure to use the check boxes on the left hand side to narrow down to “Peer Reviewed” and you can also adjust the date range.
7) Click on a result’s title to read the abstract (a short summary of the article)
8) Look for the PDF Full Text or HTML Full Text links to read the full article. If there is no full text link, click on the “Find it” button to see if we have access in another database or if we have the print copy in the library.
Searching by journal title:
If your professor gives you a list of specific journal titles you need to use, the process to find an article is a little bit different. In this case, the fastest way to find an article is through Cook Library’s Journal List.

1) Visit the Cook Library homepage at [https://libraries.towson.edu](https://libraries.towson.edu)
2) Look for the “Journal List” icon
3) Type in the name of a journal. Tip: Try omitting words like “The” that appear at the beginning of a journal title.
4) The results page shows you the different places the library has access to the journal, and for which date ranges.
   a. **Access to a journal online** includes the name of the database or publisher and a link. Click on that link to browse through the journal online
   b. **Access to a journal in print** will say “Bound Journals” and list where to find it in the library.

---

**Need help?**

**Kimberly Miller**  
Assessment Librarian  
Psychology Liaison  
kimberlymiller@towson.edu  
410-704-6324

**Cook library Research Help**

**In-person:** Research Help Desk (3rd floor)  
**Phone:** 410-704-2462  
**Text:** 410-774-1398  
**Online:** Chat or email using the “Ask a Librarian” link on our homepage