

## Using Sawyer Library Databases

<p><b>Journal publishers</b> usually only provide access to their content to those who pay a fee. Some publishers may also provide online access through general database vendors. These vendors charge institutions or individuals for access rights to a wide variety of sources.</p> <p>High-quality (and expensive) Library Databases are one of the most useful research tools for students working on course-required assignments. To support the academic needs of Suffolk University, the Library currently subscribes to more than 140 databases. These databases provide access to full-text journal articles, newspapers, statistics, eBooks, directories and more. <i>This material is NOT available free on the general web.</i></p>	<p><b>Student Access to Databases:</b> Library databases are only available to current Suffolk University students, faculty, and staff. They are not freely available to the public. A student may access them from on or off-campus via the Sawyer Library home page: <a href="http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/sawyer.htm">http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/sawyer.htm</a> .</p> <p>Click on <b>Databases by Subject</b>. There is also an <b>A-Z</b> listing. An eJournal Locator that helps you pinpoint which database has a particular journal title is also available.</p> <p>If you are off-campus, you will be prompted to enter your name and current Suffolk University ID number. The A-Z List of Databases (<a href="http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/databases.htm">http://www.suffolk.edu/sawlib/databases.htm</a>) provides more detailed descriptions of each resource. And our guides ( <a href="http://suffolk.libguides.com/index.php">http://suffolk.libguides.com/index.php</a> ) suggest the best databases for a variety of subject areas.</p>		
<p><b>Searching Methods:</b> <b>Keyword Searching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keywords may search title, author, subject, abstract, or even full-text content</li> <li>• Keyword searching may retrieve some irrelevant items</li> </ul> <p><b>Subject Searching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A subject search involves searching the subject headings of records in a database</li> <li>• Most databases maintain their own headings</li> <li>• You must know what the subject headings are to use them</li> <li>• New articles may not have headings assigned.</li> </ul> <p><b>Title Searching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May use full or partial title</li> <li>• Ignore articles, such as “a” or “the” at the beginning of a title</li> </ul> <p><b>Author Searching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Search by personal name: author, artist, composer or by institution, government, organization</li> <li>• Type last name first, then add first name or initial</li> </ul>	<p><b>Scholarly vs. Popular Articles:</b> A scholarly Journal’s articles have gone through a peer review process by subject specialists in the field. Many library databases have a check-box or other option that limits retrieved articles to those in Peer Reviewed/Refereed Journals. Check with your instructor regarding his/her policy on using scholarly or popular publications.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td data-bbox="751 1262 1122 1892"> <p><b>Scholarly:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Authors are researchers and discipline experts</li> <li>-Always includes a bibliography</li> <li>-Content is academically oriented</li> <li>-Publisher is an association, university, or academic publisher</li> <li>-Purpose is to disseminate research and scholarship</li> <li>-Articles are reviewed by a scholarly “peer.”</li> <li>-Example-<i>American Economic Review</i></li> </ul> </td> <td data-bbox="1122 1262 1430 1892"> <p><b>Popular:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Authors are staff writers or unsigned</li> <li>-Includes no bibliography</li> <li>-Content is general interest or news</li> <li>-Publisher is a commercial organization</li> <li>-Purpose is to disseminate general news or to entertain</li> <li>-No review by other subject experts</li> <li>-Example- <i>Newsweek</i></li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Scholarly:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Authors are researchers and discipline experts</li> <li>-Always includes a bibliography</li> <li>-Content is academically oriented</li> <li>-Publisher is an association, university, or academic publisher</li> <li>-Purpose is to disseminate research and scholarship</li> <li>-Articles are reviewed by a scholarly “peer.”</li> <li>-Example-<i>American Economic Review</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Popular:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Authors are staff writers or unsigned</li> <li>-Includes no bibliography</li> <li>-Content is general interest or news</li> <li>-Publisher is a commercial organization</li> <li>-Purpose is to disseminate general news or to entertain</li> <li>-No review by other subject experts</li> <li>-Example- <i>Newsweek</i></li> </ul>
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