

Finding Journal Articles

Queen's Library Homepage: library.queensu.ca

Journals and magazines are important sources for up-to-date information in all disciplines. The Library provides access to a large collection of journals, both in print and electronic formats.

Faculty often request that their students use scholarly journals in their research. It is important to be able to ascertain scholarly journals from popular press ones. The following guide will help you identify whether a journal is scholarly or not.

Distinguishing Scholarly Journals from other Periodicals

<http://library.queensu.ca/inforef/tutorials/qcat/qeval.htm>

Finding Articles on a Topic

The best way to find articles on a certain topic is to use an article database (also known as a periodical index).

1. Selecting an Index / Database

To identify relevant indexes / databases, go to:

- Research by Subject: To find out what databases are recommended for your subject area, check the subject guides prepared by librarians, which are available under the "How-to & Help" menu.
- Articles: Find an article index by selecting a subject, browsing an alphabetical list, or entering a specific journal index name ("Find Information" menu, Databases).
- Ask a Librarian: Staff at the research help desk can help you find the right index(es) or database(s) for your topic ("Locations & Hours" menu, Contact Us).

NOTE: If you are off campus, you will need to [login](#) using your Queen's NetID.

When selecting a database, also consider:

Date Range:

The date coverage varies with each database. For older material you may also need to use a print index.

Geographic Area:

The geographical area covered by each database varies.

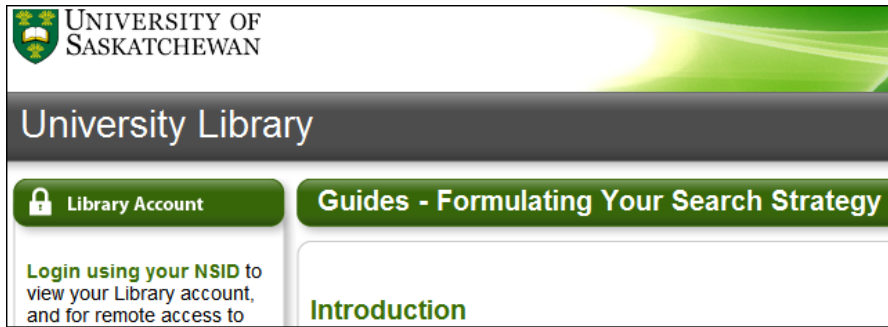
Format:

Some databases include the full text of the article online; others may only provide a reference to an article.

2. Searching an Index / Database

Before searching, think about your topic and identify key terms. Break your topic down into key concepts and consider synonyms, alternate spellings and related terms. Also consider narrower or broader keywords.

For information on how to develop an effective search strategy, check out University of Saskatchewan's [guide](#).



3. Understanding Citations

Below is an example of a citation retrieved from one of the Library's subscribed databases.

Connect to the full text of this article.

[Next >](#) | [Cited by 6](#) | [Table of Contents](#) | [Full-Text HTML](#) | [Full-Text PDF\(185 Kb\)](#)

Database PsycINFO

Title **I wish I were a warrior: The role of wishful identification in the effects of violent video games on aggression in adolescent boys.**

Author [Konijn, Elly A.](#)¹; [Nije Bijvank, Marije](#)¹; [Bushman, Brad J.](#)²

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Source Developmental Psychology. Vol 43(4), Jul 2007, pp. 1038-1044

ISSN 0012-1649

Electronic ISSN 1939-0599

Descriptors Aggressive Behavior* Computer Games* Self Concept* Violence* Human Males

1. **TITLE:** refers to the article title. This cannot be searched in QCAT.
2. **AUTHOR:** lists the authors of the article, in 'last name, first name' format.
3. **SOURCE:** the title of the journal, magazine, newspaper or conference, followed by volume, issue, date and the page numbers of the article.
4. **DESCRIPTORS:** index terms assigned to the article that describe its subject and content. These can be searched.
5. Click [Get It! Queen's](#) if the full text of the article is not in the database you are searching.
6. **ABSTRACT:** a brief summary of the entire article.

4. Finding Specific Articles

In order to find specific articles, you will need to first determine if the Library owns the journals, in which the articles are contained.

Full Text Available in the Database:

- Many of our article indexes and databases provide the "Get It! @ Queen's" button for instant access to online copies of journal articles. There may also be a link to a PDF or other full text format.
- To access article indexes and databases or to download full text journal articles from home, go to Connect from Off-Campus (proxy.queensu.ca/login).
- If there is no "Get It! @ Queen's" button or if you are prompted to find a print copy of an article, you can search QCAT to find the item.

Full Text Not Available in the Database:

Sometimes, the article you find in a database is not available full text right in the database and you will have to check if Queen's Library subscribes to the journal you need.

In order to check whether the Library has a particular journal or newspaper and whether it is available in print, on microfilm or online, you will have to search in the library catalogue, QCAT.

Click the Journals A-Z tab on the library home page and enter the title of the journal or directly go to the library catalogue.

For most journals, magazines or newspapers, search QCAT by **Journal Title**. If the journal title is a common one, such as 'Review', 'Annual Report', or 'Annals', you can also search by name of the issuing body (e.g. the name of a corporation, government department, association or conference). e.g. *American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

For example, we will search QCAT by journal title exact, *Developmental Psychology*.



The screenshot shows the QCAT search interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'Search', 'Advanced Search', 'Course Reserves', and 'New Books'. The 'Search' tab is active. Below the tabs, there is a search box containing the text 'developmental psychology'. To the right of the search box is a 'within:' dropdown menu that is open, showing a list of search criteria: 'Keyword', 'Keyword Boolean [and, or, not, "a phrase"]', 'Title Keyword', 'Title Exact', 'Journal Title Exact' (which is highlighted in blue), 'Author [lastname, firstname]', 'Subject Heading', and 'Call Number'. Below the search box is a 'Limit To:' dropdown menu set to 'All Material'.

Two results are found - the print and electronic versions. Check the Holdings Information to see if the Library holds the year and/or the volume of the journal you need. If the journal is in print, you will need to write down the call number for the journal and note the location. Bound journals are shelved by call number on the second floor; unbound journals are alphabetically shelved on the second floor in Current Periodicals.

You can also use the article look-up form on the [Articles](#) page to find specific articles when you already have the citation. To do this, click on the link, Find a Specific Article.

NOTE:

If the Library does not own the journal you need in either print or electronic format, you may wish to request an [interlibrary loan](#) via Racer.

Citing Journal Content

- To avoid plagiarism, you must properly cite resources you used in preparing your assignment. Check if your department, professor, or TA has a preferred style.
- Consult a style guide, available in the Reference section of the library.
- Check "How To Cite Sources" in the "How-to & Help" menu on the main library webpage: library.queensu.ca/help/cite-sources.
- Use RefWorks, or another citation manager.
- Earlier, we found a citation from PsycINFO. Here are examples of that citation in two different citation styles:

MLA: Konijn, Elly A, Marije Nije Bijvank, and Brad J. Bushman. "I wish I were a warrior: The role of wishful identification in the effects of violent video games on aggression in adolescent boys" Developmental Psychology 43.4 (2007): 1038-1044.

APA: Konijn, Elly A., Nije Bijvank, Marije, Bushman, Brad J. (2007). I wish I were a warrior: The role of wishful identification in the effects of violent video games on aggression in adolescent boys *Developmental Psychology*, 43(4), 1038-1044.