

Hello and welcome to the tutorial on using the CSU Library to locate peer-reviewed articles. You might be wondering what peer-reviewed articles are and why you are often required to use them. Before we begin our search in the library's online databases, let's take a quick look at a definition.

Peer-reviewed articles can be found in scholarly or academic journals, and before they are published, they go through a rigorous review process by a group of experts. In this peer-review process, an article written by an expert in a particular field of study is reviewed by a panel of individuals who are also experts in that academic subject; they are the scholarly peers of the person who wrote the article. Peer-reviewed articles include research studies and critical overviews of industry topics. The review panel members use a strict set of standards to determine the quality of the article and ultimately decide if the article will be published in that journal. This review adds an element of authority and validity to the article due to the confirmation from other experts within that field. Peer-reviewed articles are considered more scholarly in nature, which is why they are often required for research assignments. In fact, they are often referred to as "scholarly" articles in your assignments.

So where in the library can we find peer-reviewed articles? And how will we know if the articles we retrieve are actually peer-reviewed? Many of our research databases can be limited to search only peer-reviewed or scholarly articles. In this tutorial, we will look at three of our databases—ABI/INFORM Collection, Academic OneFile, and Academic Search Complete—but remember that these same strategies will work in many of our other databases as well. We will also learn how to double-check our search results by using visual cues and search limiters. Now let's explore a few databases to see how to search for peer-reviewed resources.

Here is a sample search in the ABI/INFORM Collection database. For more control of a search in any database, choose Advanced Search and enter your search terms into the search boxes. Shown here is a search for leadership and team building. Once you enter your search terms in the search boxes, look below for a box labeled Peer reviewed. When you click that box, you tell the database to limit your search results to peer-reviewed articles only. Note that in this database, the peer-reviewed limiter is next to the Full-text box, which should already be checked by default. Always leave the Full-text box checked in order to retrieve full articles.

After you hit search, you will be redirected to the results page. There are two ways you can verify that you have retrieved a list of peer-reviewed articles. First, you should notice in the search limits key on the left that your results have been narrowed by Full text and Peer reviewed. Additionally, under source type, you can confirm that most of the results here have come from scholarly journals. A visual cue is also located next to each individual title in the results list; in this database, the visual cue for scholarly or peer-reviewed articles looks like a graduation cap.

Next, let's take a look at a similar search in the Academic OneFile database. Even though this database looks a bit different than the one we worked with in our previous search, the same

strategies apply here as well. Again, choose Advanced Search instead of Basic Search and enter your search terms—leadership and team building—in the search boxes near the top. On this search screen, look below for a box to check labeled Peer Reviewed Journals; here it is listed under More Options underneath the search boxes. Again, the peer-reviewed box is located near the check box for Full Text Documents; be sure to leave that checked.

The search results page for Academic OneFile is organized a bit differently than that for ABI/INFORM. There is no visual cue next to individual search results, but the Academic Journals label at the top of the list tells us how many scholarly articles are included in the results. Like the word 'scholarly', the word 'academic' is often used to signify peer reviewed. The search limits key, located in this database to the right of our results list, also confirms that our search is limited by articles that are in full text format and are from peer reviewed journals.

Finally, let's see how this search might look in the Academic Search Complete database. Again, start by entering your search terms in the search boxes near the top, then look below for a peer-reviewed limiter box, here located under the full-text limiter. In this database, the peer-reviewed limiter is labeled Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals. Even though the designation is slightly different from one database to the next, the end result is the same: a list of peer-reviewed articles.

On the results page, the search limits key is located to the left of the search results list, and each individual title contains a visual cue; here, it is a document labeled Academic Journal. Also, in this database, if you forget to check the Peer-Reviewed box on the main search screen, you have the option of checking it here; doing so will automatically adjust the number and type of your search results without going back to the main page.

If you have questions about how to find or recognize peer-reviewed articles, please reach out to the CSU librarians via email, phone, or chat.

Thank you for viewing this presentation. And good luck with your research!