

A database is a huge online library of journal articles. Databases can be subject specific (e.g. provide articles only from religious journals) or they can be more general.

Some journal databases also include conference papers, book chapters, reports, books, dissertations and other types of information.



How do journal databases differ from PrimoSearch?

PrimoSearch is a good place to start as it searches through everything the library holds PLUS the articles from most databases. But it doesn't search all the databases.

To do a thorough search you may need to go to a specific database.

You will find a list of all the databases on the library webpage *Databases > All databases A-Z* or you could find suggested databases for your course at *Databases > Online Databases – by faculty*.

The biggest databases are:

Academic OneFile	Nursing Education in Video
Australia/NZ Reference Centre	Ovid Nursing Full Text Plus
ATLA with ATLAS Serials – Religion	Oxford Biblical Studies Online
CINAHL Plus – Nursing	Oxford Medical and Nursing Handbooks
Classical Music in Video	Oxford Music Online
Credo Reference	Oxford Reference
The Digital Library of Classic Protestant Texts	Proquest Central
Education in Video	SAGE Journals Online
Garland Encyclopedia of World Music	Science Direct
Informit	Taylor and Francis
Naxos Music Library	

How to search a database

Step 1 Choose your keywords

List the keyword(s) or phrases that describe the major concept(s), including words or phrases that mean the same thing (synonyms) and alternative spellings. For example, if you have been asked to write about ***the relationship between obesity and diabetes (Type 2)***. Then you would use the keywords **obesity diabetes Type 2**.



Search encyclopaedias, Internet, books, thesauri etc to find synonyms (e.g. teenager/adolescent/youth; rubella/German measles)

Step 2 Choose a suitable database

Go to the Avondale Library website and select **Databases**. Go to **Online Databases - by Faculty** and select the database relevant to your topic. (e.g. Cinahl for Nursing or ATLA for Theology). You may wish to start with a general database such as Proquest Central.

Step 3 Perform your search

Combine words with AND to find articles with both words. Using AND gives you smaller results (e.g. hospitals AND Australia)

Use OR to combine synonyms (e.g. television OR TV). Using OR gives you more results

Use truncation to help your search. (e.g. Austral* will include Australia, Australasian, Australian, etc)

Step 4 Analyse your results



If you got too many results you may need to narrow your search by adding more keywords to get more specific results. You may also limit to full text articles, limit by date, limit to peer reviewed etc

If you have too few results take out some keywords or try a different set of keywords. When you find an article that is just right, note the subject headings, look at their reference list or scan the article for ideas on other words you can use to help you search further

Finding nothing? You may have selected the wrong keyword(s) or database. Try using more general terms to broaden your search or try another database.

Step 5 Find the article

Many databases are full text and will have the complete article available.

If only the abstract is available, check to see if the journal is available on another database.

Go to *Library – Journal Titles A-Z* and type in the name of the journal. This will tell you where else you may find the journal.

Studies in Christian ethics (0953-9468) [Look up Article](#) [More full text options](#)
from 01/01/1999 to present in [SAGE Humanities and Social Science Package 2009](#)
from 01/04/2003 to present in [Religion & Philosophy Collection \(EBSCO\)](#)

Studies in Christian ethics (0593-9468) [Look up Article](#) [More full text options](#)
from 1988 to present in [Avondale Print Journals](#)

e.g. **Studies in Christian ethics** is available in SAGE Religion & Philosophy Collection(EBSCO) as well as Avondale Print Journals.

If the article is not available you may order it using the form found at *Help – Online Request Forms*.

Step 6. Mark/Save the article

Print the article, save it onto your computer or export it to EndNote. Exporting the reference to EndNote automatically saves a link to the article.

(See the sheet *What is EndNote?*)