

How to Find Journal Articles

Search *PERIODICAL ABSTRACTS* with These Helpful tips

In **Periodical Abstracts** you can search **over 1800 magazines and journals**, both general audience and scholarly publications. Many articles in the database are available **full-text**. (The entire article is online.)

How to Use Periodical Abstracts

- Open it from the Alphabetical List of ALADIN's "**Articles & Other Databases**."
- If you are searching a topic fairly easy to define, such as "school vouchers," click on the "Topic Finder" to **view article categories**. You can click through the topic links to narrow the categories until you find "Educational Vouchers." This will allow you to view most database articles on this topic.
- You can also **browse topics alphabetically** by clicking on "Browse Lists."
- To search the database, click on "Search Methods" and select "**Guided Search**" for more searching power than "Basic." The following screen will appear:

Enter one or more search terms.

Search for:	voucher	in the	All Basic Search Fields*	field.
AND	school	in the	All Basic Search Fields*	field.
OR	education	in the	All Basic Search Fields*	field.
AND	All	in the	Publication Type	field.
AND	All	in the	Article type	field.

AND Date range: Current Any Month 1999 to Any Month 2003

Show results with full text availability only
 Show articles from peer reviewed publications only
 Show total number of articles

- **Enter keywords** in the text boxes and choose where you wish to search for those words: in "All Basic Search Fields," "article text," etc.
- **Choose connectors** between your terms: "AND," "OR," "AND NOT." You may use the "WITHIN 3" connector to search for "welfare reform," for example, within three words of "Wisconsin" to narrow your search.
- **Select "Show total number of articles"** to know how many results you've retrieved.
- **Choose your date range** and click the Search button.

Too many results? Not enough? See reverse for help.

Too many results to sort through?

Scroll past the results list to the Search text boxes and try one or more of the following:

- Add **another keyword** to the search using the “AND” connector.
- Try using **more specific keywords**: “dormitories” instead of “college.”
- Decrease the **date range**.
- Limit the **fields** you are searching: search “Subject” or “Abstract.”
- Limit the **Publication Type** to only Newspapers or only Periodicals: magazines and journals.
- Select an appropriate **Article Type** from the drop-down menu (“book review” or “cover story”).
- Search for **words near one another** using the “WITHIN 3” connector.
- Select “Show results from **peer reviewed publications**,” which are publications edited by scholars and professionals in a particular field, such as education.
- Choose “Show results with **full-text availability** only.”

Enter one or more search terms.

Search for:	voucher	in the	*Subject	field.
AND		in the	All Basic Search Fields*	field.
AND		in the	All Basic Search Fields*	field.
AND	Periodicals	in the	Publication Type	field.
AND	cover story	in the	Article type	field.

AND Date range: Backfile Any Month 1986 to Any Month 1998

Show results with full text availability only
 Show articles from peer reviewed publications only
 Show total number of articles

Not enough results?

Scroll past the results list to the Search text boxes and try one or more of the following:

- **Delete** one of your **search words**.
- Try adding **synonyms** using the “OR” connector.
- Use the **wild card (!)** to find words with the same root (e.g. **educat!** would retrieve **educator, education, educational**, etc).
- Try using **broader search terms** (e.g. “education” instead of “school”).
- Change the **date range** to “Backfile” to search older issues of periodicals.
- Search in **All Available Search Fields** if you had previously searched specific fields.

For more help, contact the Mullen Library Reference (x5070) or try **Ask a Librarian**, the WRLC’s Virtual Reference service at <http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/>

