Find Articles in e-Journals & Journals

Journals are a vital source of information, providing reports of research and up-to-date discussion. Many of the most important academic journals are available as e-journals. E-journals are available 24/7 over the Internet and can be easily searched and articles printed out or saved. You can also keep up-to-date with new issues of your favourite journals online.

How to find a specific e-journal or journal

There are 1000s of e-journals, but just because they are accessed over the Internet does not make them all free for you to use. E-journals provide quality information which often has to be paid for. So the first thing you need to check is which journals and e-journals the University of Westminster has paid for you to have access to.

Start with Library Search (http://www.westminster.ac.uk/librarysearch) and Books, journals & more to find BOTH what print journals and what e-journals the university offers. Simply type in the journal title eg ‘sociology’. If the title you want does not appear near the top of the results screen, try refining your search on the left hand side by Resource Type: Journals:

Click on Locations for information about which print issues are held at which of our campus libraries. Click on Online Access or the journal title to access e-journals. For most journals you will usually find only older issues are still held in print. Most current academic journals are now available online 24/7 as e-journals.

You can save your favourite e-journals in Library Search to your e-Shelf by clicking the star in front of the title. Then just go to your e-Shelf to return to it quickly and easily.

How to find a specific article


1. If you have a reference, first identify the title of the journal – it will often be in italics.

2. In Library Search, type the journal title into the Books, journals & more search box eg ‘british journal criminology’. Click Search.

3. If the title you want is marked Online Resource, click on Online Access or journal title to find out which e-journal databases it is available in, what years are included and any username and password you might need

4. Check the dates in your reference. For this example, you want 2008 but HeinOnline only includes issues up to 1997. It is available in Oxford University Press Journals from 1996 to the
most recent issue. To access the e-journal click on the database name, or often you can fill in the reference details and click Go to go straight to the article itself.

5. If the title you are looking for appears in Library Search followed by Locations it is available in print. Again, check the dates and issues available.

How to find articles on a subject
If you don’t have a reference, but are instead looking for articles on a specific subject, again use Library Search but click on the tab Articles & more:

1. Type search terms into the search box eg “identity theft”
2. You can do a Quick Search across a few, general e-journal databases or refine your search by selecting a broad subject area from the drop down list. Click on Search
3. Selecting a broad subject will search databases selected as best for an in depth search in that subject area, but it usually takes a few moments to run the search across a group of e-journal and indexing databases and not all the references it finds will be immediately available online:

4. Look under Collection on the left hand side to find out which e-resources have been searched and how many matching records each found
5. Articles available in e-journals are marked as Full text available. Click Online access.
6. Articles Library Search is unsure about are marked Check for full-text. Click LinX to find if it is in fact available online, is in the Library in print or look for alternative sources

Alternatively, you can search for articles in individual databases listed under E-Resources in Library Search. This will give you access to many more e-resources and to much more sophisticated search options. Or you can search Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.co.uk/) and click on Full text LinX@wmin. To get this link off campus go to Settings, Library links and select University of Westminster.

Keeping up-to-date
Keep up-to-date with your favourite journals by setting up email alerts or RSS feeds. Many e-journal databases offer these options, or you can use the British Library’s Zetoc. If you use Refworks to store your references you can even use this as your RSS reader, and save useful articles directly into Refworks. All these are available via Library Search.

Further Help
If you have further questions, contact Ask a Librarian email enquiry service or you can ask your liaison librarian: www.westminster.ac.uk/library-and-it