When working on a research assignment, your professor may ask you to use articles that come from peer-reviewed (or refereed) journals.
Learn more about peer review
(skip to page 8 to return to main content)
Peer review is a process in which experts in a field review an article before it is published to ensure that the research described in the article is valid and important.
The peer review process is completed in addition to the usual editorial process that articles go through prior to being published and helps to add an extra layer of credibility to the article.
Articles in scholarly journals are generally peer-reviewed.

Articles from other types of publications, such as magazines, newspapers, and trade journals, are not.
Both peer-reviewed and non-peer reviewed articles can be found in library databases.

This main content of this tutorial will show you how to use Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory to verify that an article is from a peer-reviewed journal.
There are a number of ways to tell whether an article is from a refereed source.

One of the most reliable to check is Ulrich’s Periodicals International Directory.

Access to this database is provided by the University Libraries.
To get to the Ulrich’s database, begin by clicking the Databases tab on the library’s homepage.
Type Ulrich’s into the search box, then click on the database title.
The Ulrich’s search page

What is Ulrichweb?
Ulrichweb is an easy-to-search source of detailed information on more than 330,000 periodicals (also called serials) of all types: academic and scholarly journals, e-journals, peer-reviewed titles, popular magazines, newspapers, newsletters, and more.

What does it include?
Ulrichweb covers more than 900 subject areas. Ulrich’s records provide data points such as ISSN, publisher, language, subject, abstracting & indexing coverage, full-text database coverage, tables of contents, and reviews written by librarians.

What are the linking options?
If your organization has enabled linking options, you can also use Ulrichweb to explore your library’s catalog or other locations where your library subscribes to serials resources.
Type the title of the journal that the article appears in into the search box.
Learn more about how to find the journal title
(skip to page 20 to return to main content)
In Ulrich’s International Periodicals Directory, you will need to search for the journal title rather than the article title.
Example 1a: Brief search result in EBSCO Academic Search Complete

Impact of Assignment Prompt on Information Literacy Performance in First-year Student Writing.


This study attempts to quantify the impact of assignment prompts and phased assignment sequencing on first-year student work; specifically, whether more fully developed and "scaffolded" assignment...
Example 1b: Detailed record in EBSCO Academic Search Complete

Impact of Assignment Prompt on Information Literacy Performance in First-year Student Writing.

Authors: Lower, M. Sara (mlower@ucsd.edu), Stone, Sloan (amstone@u.wu.edu), Booth, Chr (cboboh@csuohio.edu)


Abstract: This study attempts to quantify the impact of assignment prompts and phased assignment sequencing on first-year student work, specifically, whether more fully developed and "scaffolded" assignment prompts would lead to better information literacy (IL) in student papers (n=520). The examination of assignment prompts in relation to student IL public scores would seem to indicate that conventional wisdom on developing assignment prompts might not have an impact on IL performance. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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Example 2a: Brief search result in JSTOR

Seeking Questions, Not Answers: The Potential of Inquiry-Based Approaches to Teaching Library and Information Science

Karen B. Brown


... but questions” (p. 163). In a similar manner, the Workshop on the Core of Education for Librarianship sponsored by the University of Chicago in 1953, brought together representatives from the fields of library practice and education to discuss whether there should be a core curriculum that is...
Example 2b: Detailed record in JSTOR

Seeking Questions, Not Answers: The Potential of Inquiry-Based Approaches to Teaching Library and Information Science

Karen B. Brown

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There may be more than one search result that matches your journal title.
If that is the case, match the ISSN to the ISSN of the journal you are searching for.
Learn more about how to find ISSN

(skip to page 29 to return to main content)
A journal’s ISSN is an 8-digit code that is used to identify a journal.

Each journal’s ISSN is unique to that publication.
Example 1: Detailed record in EBSCO Academic Search Complete
Example 2: In JSTOR, click the Journal Info button to reveal detailed information about the journal.
Example 2: The journal’s ISSN is listed in this detailed information.
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Once you have identified a matching title and ISSN, check the **Refereed** column.
If a symbol of a referee’s jersey appears in this column, this means articles in the journal are refereed/peer-reviewed.
In this example, the journal title has the referee symbol, indicating that articles published in this journal are peer reviewed.
For journals that are not refereed, the Refereed column will be blank (see the highlighted example).
Thank you for completing this tutorial!

We hope you found the information in this tutorial helpful.

Questions? Please feel free to contact us. Help is available 24/7.

http://library.albany.edu/help/im

If you are completing this tutorial as an assignment,

click here to fill out the credit form.