

JSTOR

Tips for searching in JSTOR

The JSTOR archive contains the full text of scholarly journals, beginning with the very first issue of each title. There is a gap, typically from 1 to 5 years, between the most recently published journal issue and the content available through JSTOR. You may choose to search the full text (every word) in any or all of the disciplines presented on the search page. When searching full-text, your search terms are compared with every word in the body of the articles as well as the citation information (e.g., author, title). You may also choose more narrowly-defined searches where only the author, title, abstract, or caption field is searched.

By default, you will be searching ALL the journals in the JSTOR database. You may wish to begin by limiting your search using the discipline list; or even select particular journals from the drop-down lists at each discipline.

JSTOR allows you to use keywords to search the collection. You may combine keywords using the Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT. When you combine keywords with "AND" in a full-text search, you find all instances in which both keywords appear in the same article. Using "OR" between keywords allows you to find all articles which contain either keyword. Use NOT to exclude the appearance of a word in the results. These operators can also be invoked by changing the operators between the search boxes, the default being "AND".

- **PLURALS and WILDCARDS:** JSTOR allows you to search for the singular and plural form of a word. Adding a ? to the end of a word allows one additional character; a * allows multiple characters. For ex. cat? will find cat and cats. Adding a # will search for regularly formed plurals in English - goose# = geese, gosling.
- **PHRASES:** To search for an exact phrase, use double quote marks around the phrase: for ex. "stock options". Adding a tilde and a number after the phrase allows the words to be separated by that number of other words. Ex. "stock options"~5
- **SEARCHING BY ARTICLE TYPE:** The default setting is to search all types of documents. It is also possible to search for a different type of item, such as **book reviews** or **full length articles**. You may select multiple types.
- **AUTHOR:** To search by an author's name, choose the "author" field from the drop-down box.
- **FUZZY SEARCH:** You can find words with similar spellings to your search term by using the fuzzy search feature. The fuzzy operator is a tilde at the end of a search term. For example, the query ti:dostoyevsky~ will help to locate articles with dostoyevsky in the title, as well as the variants dostoevsky, dostoevski, dostoevsky, dostoyevski, dostoevskii, dostoevski, etc. NOTE: Fuzzy searching searches a potentially very large number of words. Narrowing a fuzzy search to title or other narrow field is highly recommended.

STOP WORDS: There is a long list of common words that are ignored unless they are part of a phrase within quotation marks (see the "Search Help" page for this list).

- **NARROWING or LIMITING A SEARCH USING THE ADVANCED SEARCH:**

Advanced Search offer options for narrowing your search through the use of checkboxes and input fields.

1. **Narrowing by Discipline**

To narrow your search to a specific discipline simply select the box next to the name of the discipline(s) in which you would like to search. You may search multiple disciplines.

2. **Narrowing by Journal**

You may also easily narrow down your search to one or more specific journals by expanding the discipline dropdown menu located on the search form.

What to do if you get too many hits

- * Add additional search terms.
- * Use more specific search terms.
- * Try searching for the same keywords in the **title** or **abstract** fields, rather than in the full-text field. (roughly ten percent of articles in the JSTOR collection include abstracts)
- * Limit your search by date, journal, or type of article.

What to do if you get too few hits

- * If you have limited your search, try expanding your search (e.g., search in full-text rather than title or abstract, use a wider date range.)
- * Check for misspellings or other typing errors.
- * Try using synonyms or variations of words.
- * Use plurals or other word endings.

- **Articles listed in JSTOR but not available in JSTOR online.**

JSTOR now also lists articles newer than the ones that they carry in full-text online. For these articles links are provided to our ArticleLinker database, through which you can determine if the article is available online in another source, or if it may be found in the library's print collection.

See the "Search Help" in JSTOR for additional and more detailed advice.