

# How to Find Articles in a Database

Comp 101 – Donna Raymond-Smith – 4/4/12

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## Step 1: Choose your database.

- For general interest topics, use Academic Search Complete (box on Articles tab).
- For discipline-specific articles (Psychology, Art, etc.), see Resources By Subject.

## Step 2: Try out some keywords.

- Which words & phrases describe your topic?
- Narrow your topic by choosing multiple keywords.
  - “Climate change AND energy” returns fewer results than just “climate change.”

## Step 3: Locate the subject labels and do a subject search.

- Subject labels = how this database likes to talk about your topic.
- Find by clicking on an article title and looking in the record.
- Do a new search using the label – make sure you change the drop-down menu!

**Tip:** *Keep track of your topic's subject labels so you only have to find them once!*

Database Name:

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Subject Labels:

Subject Labels:

## Step 4: Too many hits? Add more keywords. Find their labels. Do another subject search.

- You can combine a subject label (*Climatic changes*) with a keyword (*polar bears*). Just be sure to put them in different search boxes!

## Step 5: Use search filters to further refine your results.

- Tell the database what you want! Last 5 years? Magazine or academic journal?

## Step 6: Get your hands on the article. Grab the citation information.

- No full text? Use the green “Article Linker” button!

### Before the end of class:

Use the database's e-mail function to send yourself an article citation.

Include Elizabeth's e-mail address: [andrewec@potdam.edu](mailto:andrewec@potdam.edu).