Journals

Journals, also known as serials or periodicals, will normally contain well-researched and up-to-date (at the time of publishing) material. Journals are a good place to find information which: is up-to-date; is scholarly/academic; is written by specialists in the subject; provides an insight into current thinking, debate and research in the area; covers a topic in depth; may not be covered in books or other publications. In addition, you can often find a journal when you can’t find a book as most of the journals the Library subscribes to are available electronically.

How to recognise a journal reference:

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authors (et al. means and others; 4 or more authors) — year of publication — journal article title
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journal title — details: volume (issue) and pages
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Exercise 3: Using the YorSearch Library Catalogue to find journal articles on a subject

It is possible to use the Search Everything option on the Library Catalogue to identify journal articles on a subject. Search Everything searches a number of bibliographic databases to which the Library subscribes but not all databases. Take a look at RMIT University’s What’s a library database? video, if you need to know more about bibliographic databases: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKIbnNLCh8g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KKIbnNLCh8g)

Note: Using the Search Everything option on the Library Catalogue will only identify journal articles for which the Library has electronic access, so you will always be able to read the articles you find.

For practice, imagine that you want to find journal articles on the subject of the sociology of education, specifically inequalities in higher education relating to race/ethnicity.

1. Return to the YorSearch homepage, then select the Search Everything tab and click on the Advanced Search link. See the example on the next page, if you are unsure of the instructions given below.

2. Enter the keywords higher education into the first search box. Then select Title from the Any drop-down menu and is (exact) from the contains drop-down menu. Using is (exact) will search for the phrase higher education. You also specified that the search terms must found in title field.

3. Enter race OR ethnicity into the second search box. Then select Title from the Any drop-down menu, but retain the option contains. Using OR combines search terms so that each search result contains at least one of the terms: either race OR ethnicity. Note: OR must be entered in CAPITALS to work on the Library Catalogue.
4. Then select Articles from the Material Type menu and enter the date 01 01 2008 in the Start Date: and click on Search. Your search will now return journal articles (only) and only those articles published since 2008.

5. Click on the Show only link Peer-reviewed Journals, to limit your search to good quality academic journal articles. Many academic journals are peer-reviewed, this means that an expert on the topic has reviewed the article before it is published in the journal to ensure quality.

6. How many peer-reviewed journal articles are found with your search? ........................................

7. Make a note of two useful articles that your search retrieved. Note: You need to take note of the full citation (author/s, year of publication, article title, journal title, volume, issue, pages) to reference articles in your assignments.

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