



# Academic Search Premier: A Guide to Searching the Database

**Academic Search Premier** is a scholarly database that covers multiple disciplines, including, but not limited to: the natural and hard sciences, psychology, economics, communication, arts and humanities, languages, engineering, and medicine. It also includes coverage to the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times, and has full-text for over 4,500 journal titles.

**Searching :** Access Academic Search Premier by going to the **Find Articles** tab on the Library’s web page, and clicking on “Databases A-Z.”

Academic Search Premier defaults to the Advanced Search. This is usually the best place to start, especially if you’re still narrowing your topic.

1. Enter your **search terms** here. You can start with one keyword or phrase or include more than one. Use keywords that are relevant and important to your topic. In this example, “religion” is a broad subject, so it will help to narrow down the results by including the keyword “workplace” in the second box.
2. When you enter more than one keyword, you need to decide how to **connect them**. The dropdown box lets you choose either **AND** or **OR**. Using **AND** will bring back results that include both of your keywords (i.e. *religion AND workplace* finds articles that have both words). This will narrow your search. Using **OR** will bring back results that include any of the words you have entered (i.e. *religion OR workplace* finds articles that have either of those two words). Using **OR** will broaden your search. The **Search Modes** section offers several different option for searching.
3. Finally, you need to choose which **field to search**. The default is set to search the entire record, but the dropdown box lets you search a specific area of the database. Choices include author, title, subject terms, and abstract (the summary of the article). If you want to retrieve the most results possible, then leave “Select a Field (optional)” selected.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier search interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs: Keyword, Publications, Subject Terms, Cited References, and More. Below this, the search area is titled "Searching: Academic Search Premier" with a "Choose Databases" link. The search input area contains three rows: "religion" in the first box, "and" in a dropdown, "workplace" in the second box, "and" in a dropdown, and an empty box in the third. A red box labeled "1" highlights the "and" dropdown in the second row. To the left of the search area is the EBSCO logo. Below the search area, there are links for "Advanced Search", "Visual Search", and "Search History/Alerts". A red box labeled "2" highlights the "Advanced Search" link. On the right side of the search area, there are "Search" and "Clear" buttons. Below the search area, there is a "Search Options" section with "Search modes" (Boolean/Phrase selected, Find all my search terms, Find any of my search terms) and "Limit your results" (Full Text, Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals). A dropdown menu is open, showing a list of search fields: "Select a Field (optional)", "TX All Text", "AU Author", "TI Title", "SU Subject Terms", "AB Abstract or Author-Supplied Abstract", "KW Author-Supplied Keywords", "GE Geographic Terms", "PE People", "PS Reviews & Products", "CO Company Entity", "IC NAICS Code or Description", "DN DUNS Number", "TK Ticker Symbol", "SO Journal Name", "IS ISSN (No Dashes)", "IB ISBN", and "AN Accession Number". A red box labeled "3" highlights the "SU Subject Terms" option. On the far right, there are additional options: "Add Row", "Apply related words", "Also search within the full text of the article:", "References Available", and "Published Date from".

**Limiting Your Search:** Before completing a search, you also have the option of limiting the results the database retrieves.

**Full-Text:** Checking this box will retrieve only full-text documents that will be available immediately. This is good if you don't have time to request an article through Interlibrary Loan. Remember that this is a **limiter** so you won't get as many results to choose from.

**Other Options:** You can also limit your search to a certain **publication date** or **type** (periodical, newspaper, book, etc.), type of document (abstract, article, etc.), or articles with images.

**Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals:** Checking this box will ensure the database retrieves only articles approved by experts in the field. This is an important criteria on many research assignments.

**Viewing Your Results:** Mouse over the **Magnifying Glass** icon to view an abstract and citation information for the article. Clicking on the title of the article gives you the option to email, print, or save the record.

You have the option of viewing full-text of an article in **PDF** (such as the 1st record) or through another database (#2). If full-text isn't immediately available, click the **Check Article Availability** link (like #3). If the article isn't available electronically, you have the option of requesting it through InterLibrary Loan. **Ask a Librarian fro details.**

**TIP:** Click on one of these subject links to narrow your results even further.

You can use the scroll bar to change the date range of the results.

For more help on searching, check out the ULS online tutorial **"Keyword Searching"** (<http://www.library.pitt.edu/services/classes/infoliteracy/tutorials/kw4/keyword.htm>) or ask a **Reference Librarian!**