



The top list of academic research databases



Whether you are writing a thesis, dissertation, or research paper it is a key task to survey prior literature and research findings. More likely than not, you will be looking for trusted resources, most likely peer-reviewed research articles. Academic research databases make it easy to locate the literature you are looking for. We have compiled the top list of trusted academic resources to help you get started with your research:

1. Scopus

[Scopus](#) is one of the two big commercial, bibliographic databases that cover scholarly literature from almost any discipline. Beside searching for research articles, Scopus also provides academic journal rankings, author profiles, and an [h-index calculator](#).

- Coverage: approx. 71 million items
- References: 1.4 billion
- Discipline: Multidisciplinary
- Access options: Limited free preview, full access by institutional subscription only

- Provider: Elsevier

Scopus

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Author search

Author last name
e.g. Smith

Author first name
e.g. J.L.

Affiliation
e.g. University of Toronto

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ORCID
e.g. 1111-2222-3333-4444

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Scopus: a multidisciplinary bibliographic database that covers 71+ million scholarly items

2. Web of Science

Web of Science also known as Web of Knowledge is the second big bibliographic database. Usually, academic institutions provide either access to Web of Science or Scopus on their campus network for free.

- Coverage: approx. 100 million items
- References: 1.4 billion
- Discipline: Multidisciplinary
- Access options: institutional subscription only
- Provider: Clarivate (formerly Thomson Reuters)



Web of Science: 100+ million scientific articles

3. PubMed

[PubMed](#) is the number one resource for anyone looking for literature in medicine or biological sciences. PubMed stores abstracts and bibliographic details of more than 30 million papers and provides full text links to the publisher sites or links to the free PDF on [PubMed Central \(PMC\)](#).

- Coverage: approx. 30 million items
- References: NA
- Discipline: Medicine, Biological Sciences
- Access options: free
- Provider: NIH



The new PubMed labs interface: a glimpse into the future of the newly designed PubMed search interface.

4. ERIC

For education sciences, **ERIC** is the number one destination. ERIC stands for Education Resources Information Center, and is a database that specifically hosts education-related literature.

- Coverage: approx. 1.3 million items
- References: NA
- Discipline: Education science
- Access options: free
- Provider: U.S. Department of Education



Collection Thesaurus

Search education resources Search [Advanced Search Tips](#)

Peer reviewed only Full text available on ERIC



ERIC: there is no better source for education-related literature

5. IEEE Xplore

IEEE Xplore is the leading academic database in the field of engineering and computer science. It's not only journal articles, but also conference papers, standards and books that can be search for.

- Coverage: approx. 5 million items
- References: NA
- Discipline: Engineering
- Access options: free
- Provider: IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers)

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Search **4.873.052** items

All ▾ Enter keywords or phrases (Note: Searches metadata only by default. A search for 'smart grid' = 'smart AND grid')

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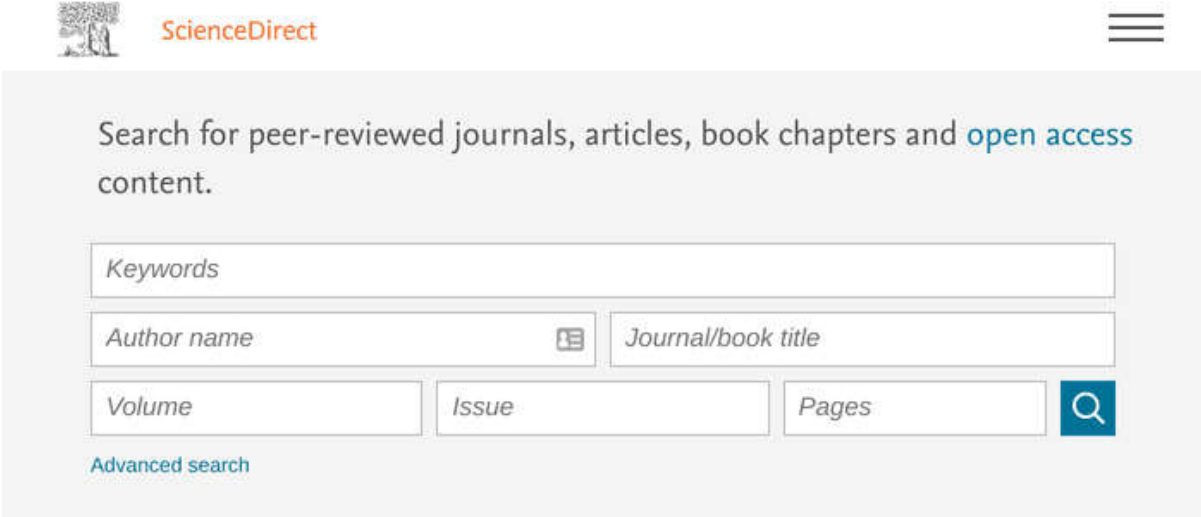
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6. ScienceDirect


ScienceDirect is the gateway to the millions of academic articles published by Elsevier. 2,500 journals and more than 40,000 e-books can be searched via a single interface.


- Coverage: approx. 16 million items
- References: NA
- Discipline: Multidisciplinary
- Access options: free
- Provider: Elsevier



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Keywords

Author name  Journal/book title

Volume Issue Pages 

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ScienceDirect: a multidisciplinary database featuring article from one of the largest academic publishers in the world

7. Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ)

The DOAJ is very special academic database since all the articles indexed are open access and can be accessed freely of charge.

- Coverage: approx. 4.3 million items
- References: NA
- Discipline: Multidisciplinary

- Access options: free
- Provider: DOAJ



SUPPORT DOAJ



DOAJ: Any document you find on this academic database is open access and can be accessed free of charge.

8. JSTOR

JSTOR is another great resource to find research papers. Any article published before 1924 in the United States is available for free and JSTOR also offers scholarships for independent researchers.

- Coverage: approx. 12 million items
- References: NA
- Discipline: Multidisciplinary
- Access options: free
- Provider: ITHAKA



JSTOR

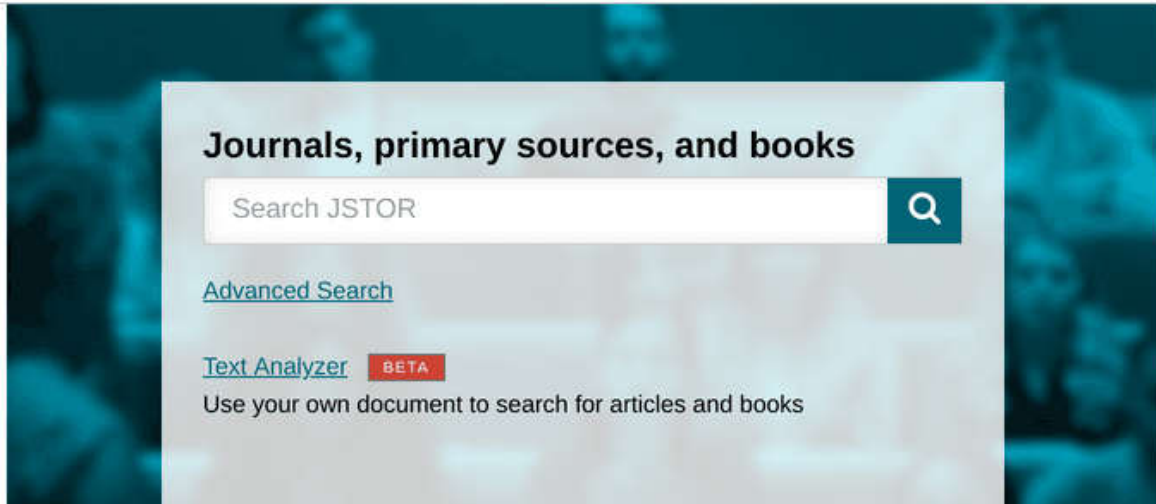
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JSTOR: 12 million scientific articles dating back to as early as 1876.

Frequently Asked Questions about academic research databases

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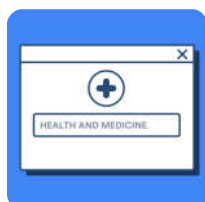
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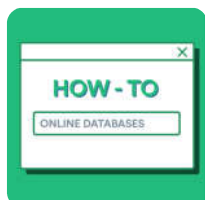
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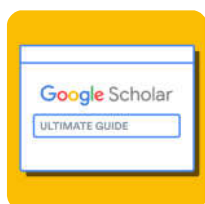
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