

JSTOR Advanced Search Guide

JSTOR is a large archive of several thousand core academic journals. Subject coverage is particularly good in the humanities and social sciences, but also includes business and sciences. Journal contents are available in pdf from the first issue of each journal up to several years ago (the "moving wall" publisher embargo on current content is typically 4-6 years back from the current year).

From the library's home page, click [Databases A-Z](#), then select JSTOR. When off campus, you will be prompted to log in using your S-Number to access full-text content. You will be taken directly to JSTOR's advanced search page. You should see the "access provided by Saint Mary's University" notice at the top of the page.

Starting a Search

Under "Select an access type", choose "Content I can access" to search for full-text articles. Searching "All content" will also retrieve items that are not part of SMU subscriptions, but which you can request via the library's document delivery service.

JSTOR supports full-text, author and title field searching. It also supports searching in the abstracts field, but only about 10% of JSTOR articles have an abstract, so this is not a good way to search for most topics.

If you have too many results, consider searching one or more of your key words in the title field to reduce the number of search results. If you have too few results, you may need to consider synonyms and alternate words to describe your topic to capture all possible title variants.

You can also limit your searches to different types of resources.

The advanced search page includes several options to refine your search results. You can choose a

Operators need to be capitalized when typed (e.g., *dogs AND behavior*). Use the advanced search keyword boxes with Boolean operators to easily refine your search query.

Exact search: Place words inside quotation marks () to search for an exact phrase. E.g., "*the handmaid's tale*" will find results about the novel and its adaptations.

Wildcards: Wildcards are used to search for variant spellings and variations on a root word. The question mark (?) replaces one character (e.g.,

To export the item to your citation manager, click "Cite." You can also select multiple articles and then