Research on the Library Website

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Utica Campus Library (PH 200)

Email: library@mvcc.edu

Circulation Desk: 315-792-5408

Reference Desk: 315-792-5561

Learning Commons (WH/IT 129)

Librarian (Jocelyn):

jireland@mvcc.edu, 315-792-5372

Front desk: 315-792-5517

Library Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 A.M.-9:00 P.M

Friday 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Saturday 12:00-5:00 P.M.

Sunday 4:00-9:00 P.M.

Learning Commons Hours

Monday-Thursday 8:00 A.M.-8:00 P.M

Friday 8:00 A.M.-7:00 P.M.

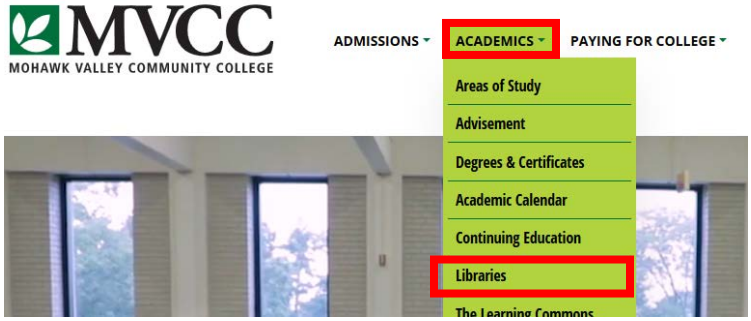
Saturday 10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.

Closed Sunday

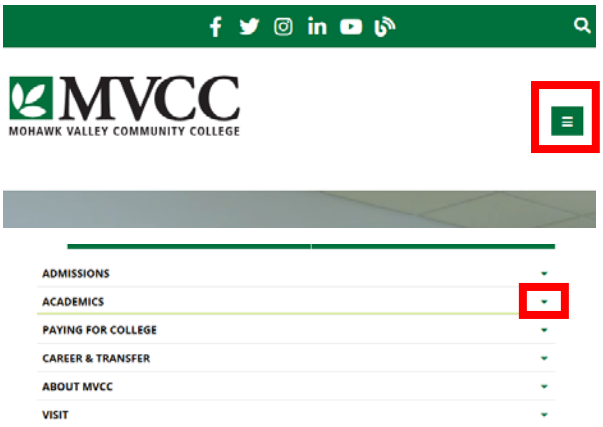
Getting to the MVCC Library website

- There is more than one way to get to the library website. You can type the website URL (mvcc.edu/library) into the web browser's address bar. Another option is from the MVCC homepage, select the Academics drop-down menu and select Libraries.

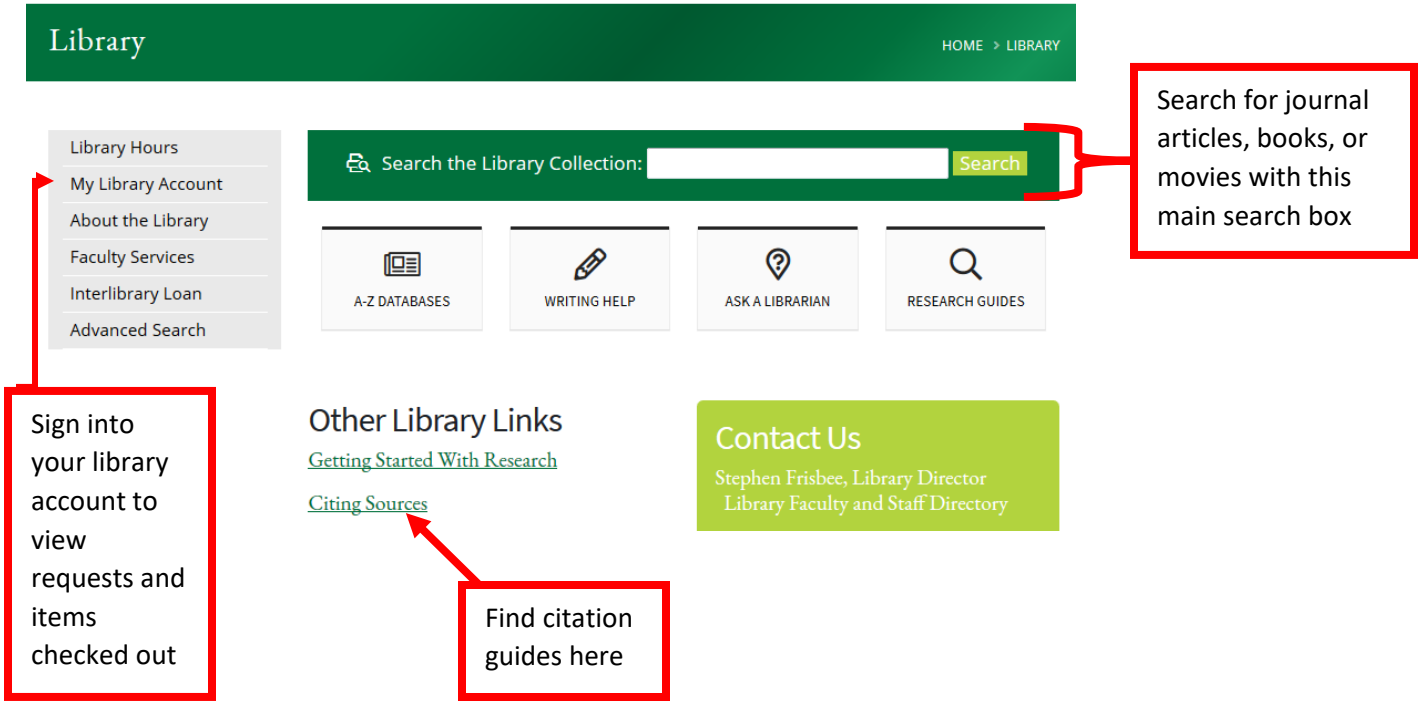
Desktop view:



Mobile view:



Library Homepage Screenshot



Search Strategies

Boolean Operators

For more precise searching, connect your keywords in a meaningful way using the words: AND, OR, and NOT.

AND

Using AND narrows your search. The more keywords you connect with AND, the fewer, more concentrated results you will retrieve.

Example:

“human trafficking” AND children

OR

Using OR expands your result. It’s especially useful when a concept can be described equally well with more than one keyword.

Example:

unemployment OR “job displacement”

NOT

Using NOT will narrow your search. This type of search is good when you know you don’t want certain results.

Example:

cloning NOT sheep

Truncation

Truncation broadens your search to include various word endings and spellings. To truncate, remove the ending of a keyword and add an asterisk. For example:

nurs* = nurse, nurses, nursery, and nursing

genetic* = genetic, genetics, genetically

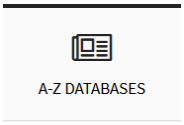
Quotation marks around phrases

Putting quotation marks around a phrase ensures the database retrieves results with the exact phrase. Example: “mass shootings”

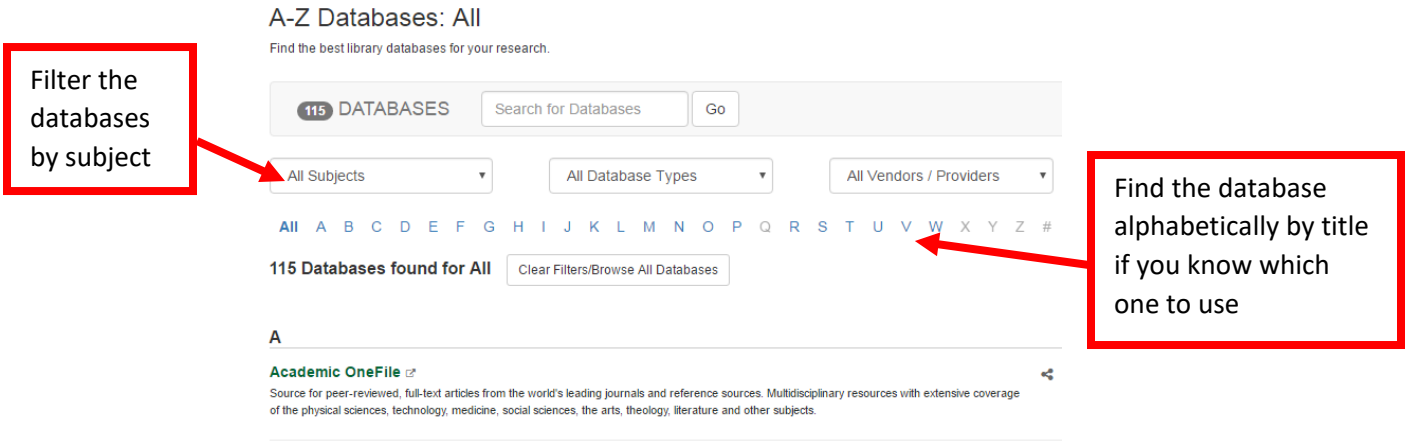
A good place to start finding sources

Databases

To view the list of library databases, select A-Z Databases button on the library homepage. Think of databases as buckets that hold millions of electronic resources often not available through the open web. Electronic resources may include scholarly journal articles, newspaper and magazine articles, ebooks, videos, and other proprietary resources. MVCC Libraries subscribes to over a hundred different databases. Each database specializes in a different subject.



Finding the right database for you:



- Once you have decided on a database, click the database's title to start searching for articles.
- After you are in the database, enter your keywords into the search boxes.
- **If you are off-campus, the database will ask you to sign-in. Use your MVCC username and password – the same log-in you use for campus computers and student email.**

Tip! Don't focus your search in just one database. Different databases are going to provide access to different journals. If you use only one database, you are missing out on a lot of good information that will help your research.

Is the journal article scholarly or not scholarly?	
Scholarly (also called peer-reviewed or refereed)	**Not Scholarly**
Articles are written by experts in the field	Author may or may not be a subject matter expert
Articles are usually divided to sections such as: Abstract, Introduction, Conclusion, References	No or little references are cited and tend to include photographs
Articles have specialized terminology of the field	Articles are written in common language
Targeted audience is not the general public, but rather fellow experts in the field	Geared toward a general audience
Articles go through an extensive review process by other experts in the field	Editorial process ranges depending on the source
Examples: *Applied Microbiology & Biotechnology*, *American Journal of Nursing*, *Digital Humanities Quarterly*	Examples: *Newsweek*, *Time*, *New York Times*, *Rolling Stone*

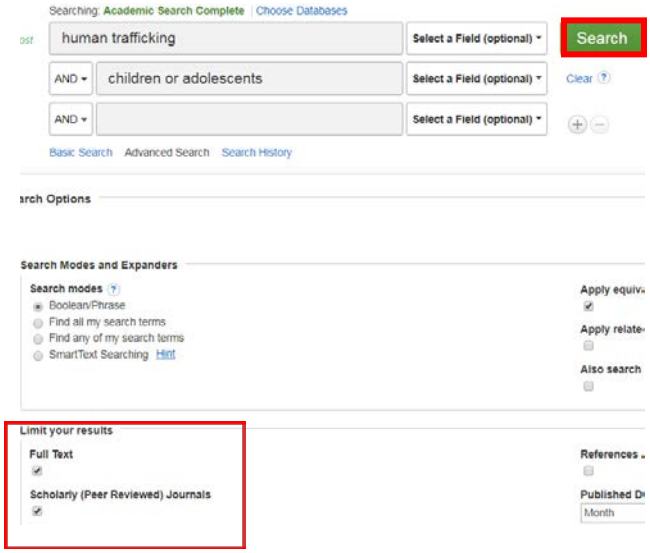
Finding Scholarly Sources in *Academic Search Complete*

Academic Search Complete is a popular database that holds articles on a variety of subjects. If you need to find a scholarly journal article and don't know which database to choose, *Academic Search Complete* is a good place to go. To get here, select the "A-Z Databases" button on the library homepage. *Academic Search Complete* will be one of the databases on the first page under the A's.

1. Type your keywords in the search box.

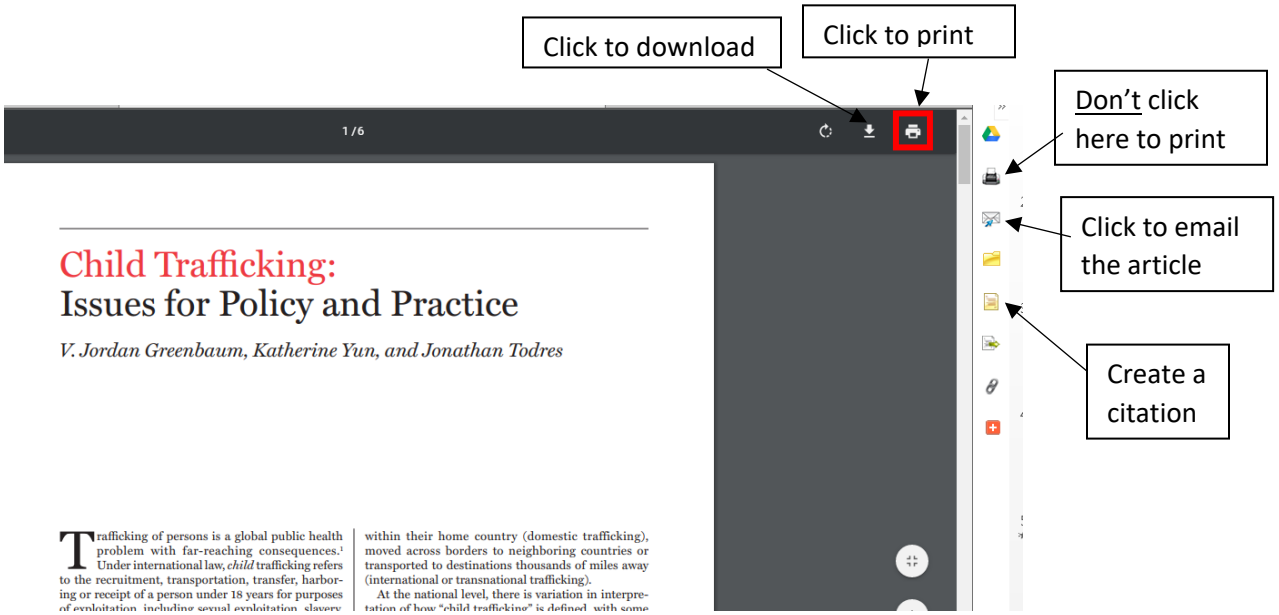
Tip! To expand your search, add the word "OR" between synonyms in the same box (example: "law enforcement" OR police).

2. Under "Limit your results", check off Full Text and Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals.
3. Click the Search button.
4. A list of articles will appear. If no results appear, check your spelling or change the search terms.
5. Scroll through your results. To see a summary (also called abstract) of an article, click on the blue title. A detailed record of the article will appear. To view the full article, click on the "PDF Full Text" link.



Tip! If the article fits well with your research questions, write down the keywords and subjects assigned to the article. These will be useful to find other articles like it. Also, look at the References cited at the end of the article. The author did a lot of research to write this article. These are sources you can look up too! A librarian can help you track down the articles if needed.

6. Once you have an article open, you can print the article.



Databases to start investigating opposing viewpoints

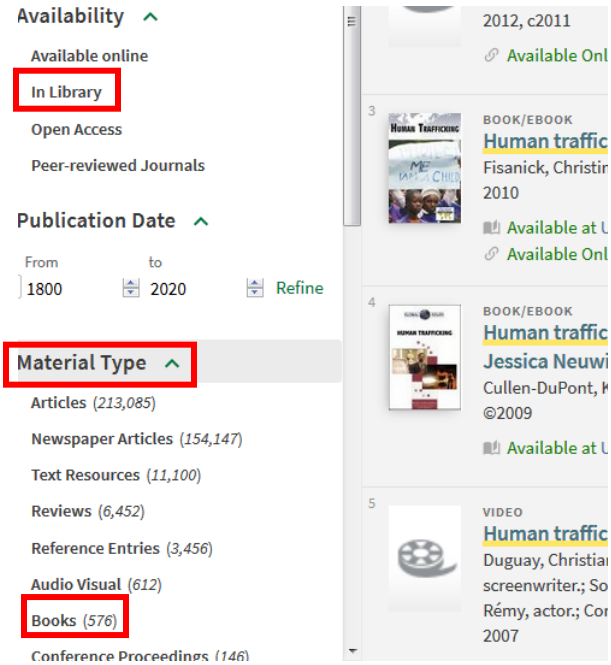
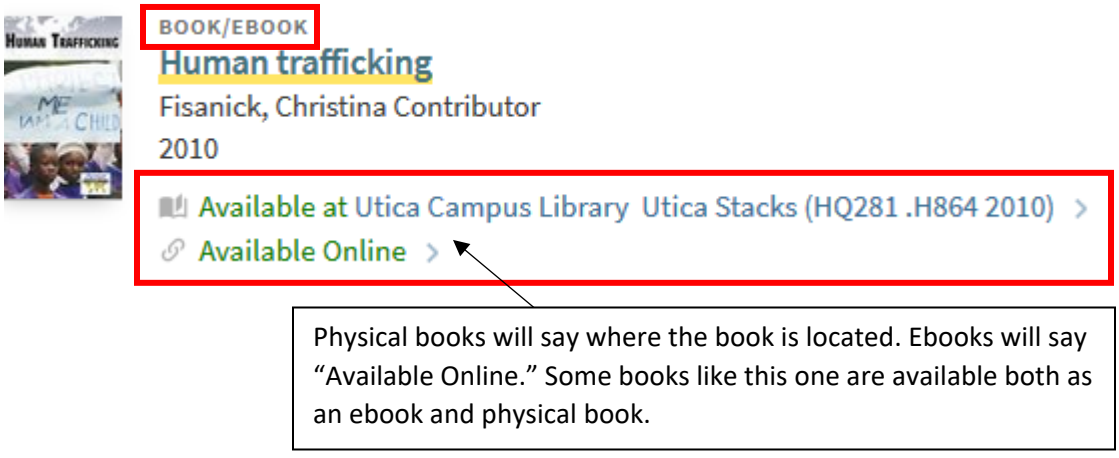
- *Opposing Viewpoints in Context*
- *Issues and Controversies*
- *CQ Researcher*
- *Points of View Reference Center*

Note: The above listed databases specialize in articles and reports meant for a general audience. They include summaries of viewpoints written by professional writers, news reports by journalists, audio interviews, videos, and other resources to examine viewpoints on timely controversial issues.

While there are some articles from scholarly, peer-reviewed sources, the above databases do not provide access to many academic journals. If you are seeking peer-reviewed articles, there are better databases to use, such as *Academic Search Complete* or another subject-specific database like *Criminal Justice Collection*.

Finding books in the Library's collection

Books are great resources to get a comprehensive look at an issue. Peer-reviewed articles tend to be on a very specific study, but books provide a more overarching look at a topic.

1. You can use the main search box or the Advanced Search button on the library homepage to find books – both physical and ebooks.

2. Enter search terms in the search box. Just use keywords not sentences.
3. On the results page, you can narrow results to books. Under filters select "Material Type" and then Books. This will return both electronic books and physical books located in the library (Utica or Rome).
4. If you would only like to view physical books, select "In Library."
5. Physical books will include which campus library holds the book and the call number.
6. Select a book's title to see a summary and a virtual browse (it shows you books on the same subject).
7. You can also sign into your library account to request a book. Library staff will remove the book from the shelf and hold it at the front desk for you to pick up. Sign into your library account with the same login as SIRS (M# and six-digit pin).