Finding Articles

For the Faculty of Education and Social Work

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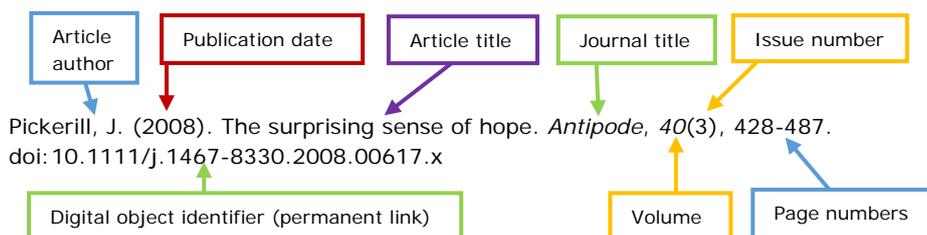
What are scholarly articles?

Where do I start?

The Catalogue: Articles and more and Google Scholar are two great search tools for finding articles as they are easy to use and they search across multiple databases at the same time. However, they don't cover everything and have limited search functionality so you may need a library database too.

What's a library database?

What if I need more articles?

Education and Social Work subject guides list the best databases and websites for your subject area, as well as providing search tips and referencing links.

What keywords or search terms should I use?

Develop a concept map before you start so that you have a list of good keyword terms to search on.

What if I don't find relevant articles?

You might need a different database, or you might need to adjust your search strategy as in this table:

What's the Problem?			Which Power search technique helps?
Too few results	**Too many results**	**Results not specific enough**	
*			Search using **synonyms**, e.g., *teenagers, youth, adolescents, adolescence, young adult*
*			**Remove concepts**, e.g., Instead of: *honeybees **and** dance **and** communicate* Try: *bees **and** dance*
	*	*	**Add concepts**, e.g., Instead of: *corporate **and** ethics* Try: *corporate **and** ethics **and** McDonald's*
	*	*	Search for keywords in the **title only**
*			Use **broader terms**, e.g., Instead of: *drug addiction* Try: *addiction*
	*	*	Apply **limits**, e.g., date, type of publication
	*	*	Try **phrase searching**, e.g., *"binge drinking", "social responsibility"*

Need more help?

Contact your Subject Librarian.