Searching databases: how and why
IBSS: International Bibliography of the Social Sciences

Use Advanced Search to get more flexibility when searching.
• Add search terms for one concept into each box
• Use Add a row to create more boxes
• Use the drop-down menus to choose where to search – abstract, title, and anywhere except full text (abstract, title, keywords) are good.

• If you are only interested in recent publications, use the date filter.
Use Modify search to change your search terms and settings
Use the filters on the left to restrict by type (e.g. scholarly journals) or date.
Some results will have a direct link to the PDF

Others will have the Find it @ Oxford button which searches SOLO for you.
If you click Find it @ Oxford, most articles will have a “Full text available” link to the PDF.

Some will not display these links, meaning the search hasn’t found an online version.

**Title:** Adolescents at work: Gender issues and sexual harassment  
**Source:** Violence Against Women [1077-8012] Fineran, Susan yr:2002 vol:?

- Full text available via Sage Premier

**Title:** Body mass index (BMI) and peer aggression in adolescent females: an evolutionary perspective  
**Source:** Journal of Social, evolutionary, and cultural psychology [1933-5377] Gallup, A C yr:2009 vol:3 iss:?

- Check SOLO
- Check Library Hub Discover
- Check OCLC WorldCat® Service
What if it’s not available in Oxford?

• Try an interlibrary loan – place requests via [https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/interlib](https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/interlib)
  - We will try to find a scanned PDF of the article from another library
  - Cost is usually £5 but some departments will pay – check yours!

• Recommend the Bodleian Libraries buys a copy/subscription via [https://www.Bodleian.ox.ac.uk/subjects-and-libraries/recommendations](https://www.Bodleian.ox.ac.uk/subjects-and-libraries/recommendations)

• Google to see if an open access version is available – maybe through the author’s institution

• Buy the individual article from the publisher (last resort!)
Why not just use SOLO or Google Scholar?

• Subject-specific databases are curated by experts to only include journals relevant to your field
  • SOLO and Google Scholar are enormous collections covering every subject – you will get overwhelming numbers of results

• You can use the tricks (*, ?, “”, AND, OR, NOT) in databases
  • SOLO’s advanced search can help, but it is not as sophisticated as IBSS or other databases

• Articles in databases are tagged with keywords to aid searching