

Search for Articles in Research Databases

1. State your research question.

Advertising fast food to children greatly contributes to childhood obesity.

2. Select an appropriate article database for your topic.

Databases are listed at <http://www.lonestar.edu/library/article-databases.htm>.
For controversial topics, try Opposing Viewpoints or ProQuest on the Current Issues databases page at <http://www.lonestar.edu/library/14629.htm>.

3. Choose topic word(s) or phrase(s) of your research question to search.

Advertising fast food to **children** greatly contributes to childhood **obesity**.

Example Search Words:

advertising and “fast food” and children and obesity

Database Search Tips

- ◆ Search with 1 - 4 important words or phrases separated by the word “and.”
- ◆ Use “quotes” to find specific phrases.
- ◆ Use an asterisk * to find all the different endings of a basic word.
- ◆ Use more search words or phrases to limit results.
- ◆ Use fewer search words or phrases to increase results.
- ◆ Check spelling or try other words if no results found.



4. Add search limits to find journal articles that include research studies.

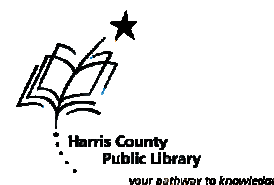
- Select the “scholarly or peer-reviewed” limit box on the search page after entering search words or phrases.
- Click the search button to perform the database search.
- Verify that a desired article is from a journal by:
 - Checking the abstract or summary of the article for details of a research study.
 - Finding that there is a list of references at the end of the journal article if you have access to the full text of the article.

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Harris County Public Library
Lone Star College-CyFair Branch
281-290-3213 | cyfairlibrary@lonestar.edu
<http://www.lonestar.edu/library>

Affirmative Action / EEO College



5. Review search results for article titles that support your research question.

Example Search Result (from ProQuest):

Researchers Say Commercials for Candy and Fast Food Hit Kids in the Gut ← Article Title
Sally Squires - Washington Post Staff Writer. The Washington Post.
Washington, D.C.: March 29, 2007. p. D.1
Abstract Full text ← Article Date Newspaper Title
Article Summary Complete Article Availability

Results List Review Tips

- ◆ Check for title words and phrases relevant to your topic.
- ◆ Find the article date to see if it is current enough for your needs.
- ◆ Click the LinkSource link if no full text (PDF OR HTML) is listed to see if full text is available in another database.



6. Examine article abstract (summary) and full-text article for further detail that supports your research question.

Example Article Listing (shortened version):

Title: Forced Feeding - Researchers Say Commercials for Candy and **Fast Food** Hit Kids in the Gut
Subject Terms:
Fast food
Television **advertising**
Abstract (summary) abbreviated:
The researchers said about a third of commercials aimed at **children** and teens tout candy and snacks -- fare that is often high in fat and added sugar. Both help fuel the ongoing epidemic of childhood **obesity**.

Search words listed in bold, underlined text. →

Sentences supporting your research. →

Abstract/Article Review Tips

- ◆ Check the article abstract for words and meaning that meet your needs.
- ◆ Check related subjects listed near the abstract for use in follow-up searches



7. Print, email, or use a portable storage device (flash drive) to keep track of information needed to cite sources.

