

## Choosing a database for your literature search

PRI Library Literature Searching and Library Catalogs: <http://help.pop.psu.edu/literature-searching>

University Libraries: <http://www.libraries.psu.edu/>

### Guide to selected bibliographic databases

Database Name	Access	Type of documents indexed	Years of coverage	Full text	Subject coverage
<b>Google Scholar</b>	scholar.google.com	journal articles, books, working papers, reports	not specified	some links, uses Citation Linker	general
<b>JSTOR</b>	through library	journal articles	archival (typically starting from volume 1 but not including the most recent 1-5 years)	yes	general (selected journals, including several major population studies titles)
<b>Popline</b>	www.popline.org	scientific articles, reports, books, and unpublished reports	not specified	links to free full-text	reproductive health, population, family planning, emphasis on developing countries
<b>ProQuest</b>	through library	journal articles, book reviews, newspaper and magazine articles, dissertations	varies, typically 1980's-present (also includes historical newspapers)	some included, uses Citation Linker	general, plus business, education, nursing, and psychology
<b>PsycINFO</b>	through library	journal articles, chapters, books, dissertations, conference papers	1806-present (little content prior to 1890)	some included, uses Citation Linker	psychology and related disciplines, also provides some citation counts and links to cited or citing papers
<b>PubMed (Medline)</b>	www.pubmed.gov	journal articles, news articles, reports	1950-present	some links, some manuscripts available in PubMed Central	biomedical
<b>Sociological Abstracts</b>	through library	journal articles, chapters, books, dissertations, conference papers, book reviews	1952-present	uses Citation Linker	sociology and related disciplines
<b>Social Sciences Citation Index</b>	through library	journal articles	1956-present	uses Citation Linker	social sciences, also provides citation counts and links to cited or citing papers

## Locating full text

**University Libraries:** <http://www.libraries.psu.edu>

E-Journal List: find online access to journals by title

Citation Linker: find full text of an article when you have a full or partial citation

The CAT: find holdings for books and journal issues

Interlibrary Loan (ILL): request books or articles not available locally

**PRI Library:** <http://www.pop.psu.edu/info-core/library/library.htm>

Catalog: find books, bound journals, and reports

Journals and newsletters: journal holdings, some full text online (*Stata Journal*)

Demography links: working papers available online

**Contact library staff for assistance obtaining difficult to find materials:**

[library@pop.psu.edu](mailto:library@pop.psu.edu)

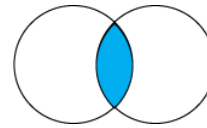
Tara Murray  
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## Constructing your search

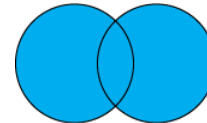
To find records containing **BOTH** of your search terms, use **AND**

Example: health care AND retirement



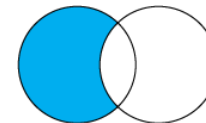
To find records containing **EITHER** of your search terms, use **OR**

Example: Latino OR Hispanic



To find records containing **ONE BUT NOT THE OTHER** of your search terms, use **NOT**

Example: neighborhoods NOT lexical



To find records containing your search terms near each other, use a **PROXIMITY SEARCH**

Example: multilevel NEAR model  
(usage varies by database)

To find variations of your search term, use a **TRUNCATION** or **WILDCARD CHARACTER**

Example: demog\*  
(finds demography, demographic, demographer, demographers)  
Example: wom?n  
(finds woman, women)

## Search operators in bibliographic databases commonly used by demographers

	<b>AND</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>NOT</b>	<b>PROXIMITY</b>	<b>WILDCARD</b>
<b>Popline</b>	& health care & retirement	/ Latino / Hispanic	! neighborhoods ! lexical	w# multilevel w3 model	* demog*
<b>ProQuest</b>	and health care and retirement	or Latino or Hispanic	and not neighborhoods and not lexical	w/# multilevel w/3 model	*, ? demog*, wom?n
<b>PsycINFO, Sociological Abstracts (CSA)</b>	and health care and retirement	or Latino or Hispanic	not neighborhoods and not lexical	within #, near multilevel within 3 model multilevel near model	*, ? demog*, neighb*hood, wom?n
<b>PubMed (Medline)</b>	and health care and retirement	or Latino or Hispanic	not neighborhoods not lexical	not available	* demog*
<b>Social Sciences Citation Index</b>	and health care and retirement	or Latino or Hispanic	not neighborhoods not lexical	same multilevel same model	*, ?, \$ demog*, wom?n, neighbo\$rhood