

Transcript for Academic Search Complete tutorial

Hi, I'm going to show you some ways to find the articles you need in Academic Search Complete.

Let's start from the UNCG Libraries home page, and go to Databases, under Research. Usually from here you'll want to look for a database by title, but Academic Search Complete is right here under Top Databases, so we'll use that.

At this point, if you're off campus, you'll get a log-in screen. Log in with the same username and password that you use for your iSpartan email.

The search screen is going to look very similar for a lot of the databases that you can use through UNCG, but you can always look in the upper left hand corner of the screen and make sure you're in the one you want.

I'm going to be looking for information about self-esteem in teens with eating disorders. This Venn diagram represents scholarly articles about those three topic areas. I can search for "self-esteem", and then I'll get this whole set of articles. But that's a huge amount of articles to look through. I want just the portion of those articles that are about self esteem and about eating disorders in teens, so my search is going to be "self esteem" AND "eating disorders" AND "teens" which gives me these articles only.

Now I'm going to search in Academic Search Complete's subject terms. This is essentially a thesaurus that is specific to Academic Search Complete, so it's going to first check to see that the terms I'm searching for are used in the database, and show me some other options as well.

For self-esteem, if I click on that to see other related terms, I think "self-confidence" and "self-perception" are good synonyms for my research topic. In this bar here, you can see that the default setting is that if I check those boxes, it will add those terms using "OR". I only need one self-esteem term in each article, not to narrow my search to articles that have all three of those terms. I'll click "Add" to put those in my search.

Now I'll do a subject term search for "Eating disorders". I'll pick terms that are in the area I'm interested in looking up, and add those to my search as well.

And the same thing for the age element. I'm searching for "teens" which then informs me that I should be using "teenagers" and then I'm checking to see if there are other terms that are used in this database that will also address my topic.

See how that search is coming together? Self-esteem OR self-confidence OR self-perception, AND eating disorders OR anorexia OR bulimia AND teenagers OR youth OR adolescence OR

young adults. Any article that has one term from each subject area will show up in my search.

Let's search for that, but I'm not quite done. From the left side bar here, I can also make selections like... I only want articles that have been peer-reviewed... and were published after 2002.

So, how does this search turn out? 25 results, and if we skim down the titles, they look pretty close to what I wanted to find. If I wasn't getting useful results, I would probably want to remove some search terms. If I was getting too many results to look through, I would want to add more specific search terms to narrow the search.

I want to make sure you know how to get the actual article, too. This one looks good, based on the title. If I go into it, I can look at the abstract... ok, that sounds useful. For this one, I can just open the PDF from this link. I can save the file if I'm on my own computer, or email myself the article information. I could also add several articles to a temporary folder, and then email myself all of that information at once if I'm not on my own computer.

Sometimes you will see "Check for full text". That sends you through the library catalog, and this one sends us right to the article. In this case, you're going to want to just save the PDF if you can, as there's no easy way to email yourself the information. But if you ever get stuck accessing an article, or if you have any other questions about Academic Search Complete, you can always AskUs!

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