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Three Paths to Scholarly Articles

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Three Paths to Scholarly Articles

	Strengths	Weaknesses	Best for....
PSU Library Catalog	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Searches over 400 databases at once, so an article can be available in more than one database; • Can see immediately whether one article is available in full text, or if not, request via Interlibrary Loan directly; • For retrieval options anytime, anywhere, you need to sign in with your Odin account; • Peer-reviewed icon for easy identification; • Efficacy of Similar Articles for Peer Reviewed Articles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You need to know to lock the filters in order to change your keywords; • Not all PSU full text journals are indexed here; • May produce too many results; • Must sign in with your Odin account to see the full results and request options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you already have a citation (or at least the title of the article); • if you are exploring a topic (especially an interdisciplinary one) and not sure where to start or what keyword(s) to use; • After locking filters, strategic exploration of a topic by changing keywords is possible.

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<p>Google Scholar via PSU Library</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Journals from a wide range of subjects, including ones that are not indexed in the catalog; • The Google search engine; • Includes "Cited by" for articles; • Access to open access articles with links • Includes Open Access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of sophisticated search options/limiters • May produce too many results; • Must use Find it @ PSU to locate full text; • User may go right to links and not evaluate unlinked citations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you already have a citation (or at least the title of the article); • If you are exploring a topic (an interdisciplinary one) and not sure where to start or what keyword(s) to use; • If you want to know who has cited the article and follow that trail into the future.

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Specific Databases: By Subject or By Type	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a more focused scope like economics or history; • Better interface with more search options/limiters and discipline-specific subject keywords; • You just need to sign in with your Odin account to access anytime, anywhere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing journals in subject from other databases; • May need to use Find it @ PSU to check for full text status; • May have to order from Interlibrary Loan & Article Delivery (ILL) through the Library website; • Need to learn how to navigate a new interface that may not be intuitive at all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you need to do subject-specific or advanced searches using various options/limiters; • If you are looking for a specific resource type like streaming videos.

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