

Academic Journals, UWTSD
online library and Searching for a
journal article.

Learning objective

- Recap on what is research
- Identify what journals and journal articles are
- Describe good characteristics of journal articles
- Search for relevant research papers
- Find research paper for assignment 1

Recap on research

- What is research?
- Why is it important?

How do we find research?

- Where are research findings published?
- Handouts 1

What is an Academic Journal

- An Academic Journal is like a magazine for experts. Academic journals are written for experts in particular fields (Scholars). Professionals, researchers, and students read them to stay up to date in their research.

Journals and Articles

- Journals focus on a specific discipline or field of study, for example:
- Health
- Education
- Social Sciences
- Psychology

- Unlike newspapers and magazines, Journals are intended for an academic or technical audience, not general readers. Journal articles usually can be identified through the following:

- Written by an authority in the field covered by the article
- Includes the authors credentials
- Includes citations, endnotes or footnotes, and/or a bibliography
- Goes through a peer- review process
- Does not have much advertising, illustrations are charts and graphs
- Written reports on research or discusses a question
- Usually includes language specific to discipline
- Can be very long (8- 50 pages)
- Includes an abstract at the beginning of the article
- Are published by a professional organisation or University with an interest in the topic and
- Can sometimes be difficult to find for free online
- Handouts 2

Journals are important because.....

- They are the main forum by which research is published
- They can explore a narrow topic in depth
- They contain current or recent research findings
- They are often peer- reviewed so that research findings are checked by other subject experts

How to find journals.....

- <http://www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/online-library/>
- Google Scholar
- Health and Social Care in the community Journal

How to search Databases.....

- Identify your search terms
- Authors refer to the same concept in different ways
- You will need to ensure you know each possible term
- Consider your title
- Is there any term that could be described differently (i.e. 'older person' or 'elderly')

Top Tips

- Use a thesaurus to identify synonyms
- Search for your concepts on a search engine like Google Scholar and skim read some of the results, looking for alternative words and phrases
- If you already have a relevant article, examine the abstract or full text for alternative words and phrases

Demonstration

- www.uwtsd.ac.uk/library/online-library/

Activity

- You'r assignments require you to search and use an appropriate journal article/ research paper (see proforma for assignment 1) Using the previous tips and strategies individually search for a paper that you can use.