

Psy 103 General Psychology – Spring 2017 – Library Databases Exercise

You will be asked to complete four short assignments over the course of the semester. These assignments are meant to give you experience in tasks that you will have to complete for other courses in the future and to give you an opportunity to use psychology to help you be successful. The first short assignment is the Library Databases Exercise which is due in Week 4.

Regardless of what your major is, you will have to be able to locate trustworthy information e.g. for a research paper or oral report. Whereas for some courses a well-respected elder might be a perfect source, for assignments in the social and natural sciences, it is best to rely (at least in part) on so-called scholarly and peer-reviewed journals. Scholarly journals are periodicals that are used by experts to publish their most recent research findings. These findings are published as so-called “articles.” Scholarly journal articles have little to do with articles in newspapers. Whereas a newspaper article is written by a journalist and very briefly summarizes e.g. an event, scholarly articles are written by experts and they are detailed descriptions of studies. Furthermore, in order to be published, articles are first “peer-reviewed,” meaning that other experts in the field review the article and only let it be published if scientific guidelines are met.

The easiest way to access scholarly journal articles is through databases to which we have access through OLC’s library. Through this assignment, you will be able to practice using these databases and locating scholarly articles.

Your Task:

Selection of Articles:

First, you need to select a psychology topic about which you’d like to learn a little more (looking through the headings of our psychology book might give you some basic ideas).

Select two (2) articles that have been published in the past 12 months and that are about the topic that you selected. **IMPORTANT:** You **HAVE** to select scholarly journal articles **AND** you have to use one of the library databases that are listed below. Your assignment will not be accepted if one of these conditions is not met! Here is how you get to the right type of text:

- a) Go to <http://library.olc.edu> (or go to www.olc.edu and select “Services” and then “Woksape Tipi (Library)”)
- b) Click on “Databases”
- c) For this assignment, pick one of the following databases: ProQuest or EBSCOHost
- d) At most college centers, you are able to access these databases without username and password. If you want to access them from your home, you are able to do so as long as you have a library card (barcode = number on the back of your card; password = your last name, all lower case).

- e) Once you have accessed the database, you can search for articles on your topic but it is recommended that you first limit your search results because not everything that is saved on those databases are scholarly articles and because in some cases not the full articles are available. You can set the limitations on ProQuest as follows (the other search engines have similar options):
- Select “Advanced Search”
 - Enter your search term in the top section
 - Set search options as follows:
 - o Limit to: full text and peer-reviewed
 - o Publication date: click on the arrow on the right side of the box and select “Last 12 months”
 - o Source type: Scholarly Journals
 - o Document type: Article
 - Search
- f) Look through the search results by reading through the titles. If a title sounds interesting, click on it to find out more about it.
- g) Select two articles that are about the same psychology topic. You can download them to your jump drive as pdf-files or print them out. You also need to copy the link of where you have found the article (for ProQuest, it will say something like <http://search.proquest.com/docview/> followed by a series of numbers.

Mini-Annotated Bibliography

Now that you have your two articles, you need to list them in a Word document in APA format (6th edition). You will need to include the following information (in the same order as listed):

- a) Author(s) last name(s) and initials first/middle names
- b) Publication year
- c) Title of the article (that’s the heading that is on the first page of your article in the largest font)
- d) Title of the journal in which it was published. This will be something like Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology, etc. This information can typically be found in the footer or header of the page(s)
- e) Volume in which this article was published: This is based on the publication year: the first year in which a journal is published is Volume 1.
- f) Issue in which this article was published: Many journals are published more than once a year so whereas the volume number is the same whether an article is published in January or August of a year, the issue number will tell us when in the year it was published (e.g. 3rd issue in volume 43)
- g) Page numbers: on which page of the journal does the article start, where does it end?
- h) Link to the article on ProQuest or one of the other two databases

This is what it needs to look like:

Author1 last name, Initials first/middle names, Author2 last name, Initials first/middle names, & Author3 last name, Initials first/middle names. (publication year). Title of the article. *Title of the Journal*, Volume Number(Issue Number), starting page-end page. Retrieved from link to article

Here is an example (please pay close attention to punctuation, use of italics and capitalization):

Ruchkin, D. S., Grafman, J., Cameron, K., & Berndt, R. S. (2003). Working memory retention systems: A state of activated long-term memory. *Behavioral and Brain Sciences*, 26(6), 709-728. Retrieved from <http://search.proquest.com/docview/212205201/57680B264B1D4E6CPQ/2?accountid=44882>

Sort your two articles alphabetically by the last name of the first author.

What you have so far is what would go under “References” at the end of a paper in which you refer to these two articles. For this exercise, however, I would like you to go a little bit further: Underneath each of the articles, describe IN YOUR OWN WORDS in 2-3 sentences a) what the article is about, and b) what makes it most interesting to you. You are not required to actually read both articles but read the abstract (=summary at the very beginning of the article) and glance through the rest of the text.

Format:

The whole exercise should fit on one page (no title page necessary) and include the following elements:

- a) Name of assignment: “Library Databases Exercise”
- b) Your Name
- c) Topic
- d) Article 1: in APA format
- e) Annotation for Article 1 (what the article is about and what you find most interesting)
- f) Article 2: in APA format
- g) Annotation for Article 2

Library Databases Exercise – Grading Rubric

	Exemplary	Score	Acceptable	Score	Unacceptable	Score
Article Selection:	Two scholarly articles are selected	10	One scholarly article is selected	5	No scholarly article is selected	Paper will not be accepted
Database Usage:	Two articles are from ProQuest, EBSCOHost, or JSTOR	10	One article is from ProQuest, EBSCOHost, or JSTOR	5	Neither article is from ProQuest, EBSCOHost, or JSTOR	Paper will not be accepted
Publication date:	Both articles were published within the last 12 months	9-10	One article was published within the last 12 months	4-8	Neither article was published within the last 12 months	0-3
Topic:	Both articles are about a psychology topic	9-10	Only one article is about a psychology topic	4-8	Neither article is about a psychology topic	0-3
Information provided:	The article listing includes all required information	12-15	The listing includes much of the required information	8-11	The listing includes only little of the required information	0-7
APA format:	APA format is used mostly correctly in article listing	12-15	APA format is used correctly intermittently	8-11	Article listing is not in APA format	0-7
Annotation: Summary of content	Good concise description of article in students' own voice	12-15	Insufficient description or not in student's words	8-11	No description of the content is given	0-7
Annotation: Interest	Specific description of what makes both articles interesting	12-15	Non-specific description of what makes the articles interesting	8-11	No description of interests given	0-7

TOTAL: 100; late submission: up to 1 week late: -10%, more than 1 week late: -30%

3% of final grade (=3.0points) AND extra credit