Locating Articles in Databases
Freshman Seminar @ Millstein Library

Work with your group to answer these questions about your assigned database (Academic Search Premier or JSTOR):

1. What is some key information about this database? (Hint: look at the short description given on the Databases A-Z page to answer this question).

2. Now, click “Connect to this database” to begin searching. Try typing “food” into the search box – how many results do you come up with?

3. Add another keyword to your search (one of the ones thought of during the previous class). Type the new keyword into the box below ‘food;’ you may need to click “Advanced Search” to see this option. What does this do to your results?

4. Often with heavily-researched topics like this one, it’s helpful to focus on articles that have been published recently. Try narrowing down your search to only articles published after 2007. What happens?

5. Finally, limit your results to include only full-text articles from scholarly publications. JSTOR groups, why is this a trick question for you?

6. How do you feel about the number of articles in your results list? Too many/not enough? How could you fix this?

7. Choose an article to examine. Make sure you know how to access these features:
   - Full text
   - Print
   - Citation for your bibliography/works cited page

8. Now do the same search in Google. What differences do you notice? Which results list do you think is better? Why?
Navigating the Library’s Website
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The website of Pitt’s University Library System (ULS) links to a lot of helpful resources and tools. Here’s a list of some of the things you’ll probably use the most, especially this first year – if you’re looking for something else and can’t find it, just ask!

library.pitt.edu

PITTCat+: As you saw on Day One, PITTCat+ can help you find books, ebooks, DVDs, and a lot of other things. Use it any time you want to look up an item to borrow at any of Pitt’s libraries.

E-Journals: If you want to look for an article in one specific journal, click “E-Journals” and search by title to find out which of the databases that Pitt subscribes to might have articles from that journal.

Databases: Click this tab to search for articles, images and more in any of the hundreds of databases that Pitt subscribes to. You can choose one from the A-Z list, or browse by subject if you’re not sure which database to start with.

Guides: Search here to find research guides created by Pitt librarians. Some of them are for specific classes, but others focus on important parts of research (using PITTCat+, citation help, Google Scholar, finding primary sources, etc). Type a keyword or the name of your class to see if there’s a guide for what you’re trying to do!

ILL (Interlibrary Loan): Request a book or article that Pitt doesn’t own

My Library Account: Log in to see what you have checked out and when it’s due back

Logging in from Off Campus: You can still access most of Pitt’s digital resources from home!

EZBorrow: If you can’t find the book you need in PITTCat, search for it here