

Library Resources
KINE 323

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Wondering where to go to research topics for your Kinesiology courses?

Begin with the library's Kinesiology Resources website

Path: ReSEARCH Station (library homepage) → Research Guides → Kinesiology

This site recommends databases, reference books, websites, etc. for researching topics in your specific discipline. The site opens to a list of recommended databases. The first four (Academic Search, ERIC, SPORT Discus, and PsycINFO) are all part of the EBSCOHost collection of databases. While the interface will look the same, each is a separate database, indexing different sets of sources (with occasional overlap). The annotated list describes the type of information contained in each. Also, take note of the tabs across the top of the page: books, reference, websites, and (course) guides.

Q. Can I access these databases from home?

A. You bet. Just use your CSUC portal login when prompted. (Note: These databases are restricted and you cannot go to them directly. You always need to access them using the links on the library's website.)

Q. When I'm searching a database, how do I know if the library has full text?

A. When you are in a database, like SPORT Discus or Academic Search, look for:

1. Links to html or PDF or "linked full text". They will take you directly to the full text.
2. 'Find It' links. Find It will tell you if the library has a journal in print or online or if you must get the article from Interlibrary Loan.
3. When using 'Find It', you will be taken to the Citation Station (our library's full-text periodical cross-reference). On the screen
 - a. Links to online sources (if any) appear at the top (e.g. Academic Search, Blackwell Synergy). Click on the 'GO' icon to open the full text article in that database.
 - b. If the library has some issues of a journal (in print), a link to the Meriam Library Catalog appears. Click on the 'GO' icon to open the library catalog and check the 'Chico Has' field to see if the library owns the issue you desire. If so, jot down the call number (along with the full article citation). Current issues (approximately the last 6 months) are kept in the Periodicals Reading Room (2nd floor). Older issues are shelved in the Bound Periodicals collection (also on 2nd floor).
 - c. A link to Interlibrary Loan appears in case the library doesn't own the journal (in print or online).
 - d. Note: when linking to a source for online full text, occasionally you may be taken to the database, but not to the article itself. When this happens, you will have to search for the article again within this database – either by title or author's name and title words. Fortunately, this is not the norm.

Q. If I have a citation to an article from a source other than a database, how do I find it?

A. Use the Periodical's List. PATH: ReSEARCH Station → Periodicals List. Search for the source (journal) title, not the title of the article. This opens the same Citation Station (periodical full-text cross-index) as Find It. If you have complete citation information (volume, issue, starting page number, etc.) you can insert them on the Citation Station page and then GO directly to the article. Please note: use starting page only (not the complete page range). If you don't have complete citation info, you will need to go to the database and the search for the article once there.

Using ‘Controlled Vocabulary’ vs. ‘Free Text’ searching

Keyword searches find your words ‘anywhere’ – not necessarily near each other. This is also known as ‘**free text**’ searching. It is the broadest kind of search. If your words are not distinctive enough, you will see many items of marginal interest. On the Internet and in databases without full text only the citation and abstract are searched and you can miss useful items that don’t use your keywords. Keyword searches can be successful if your words are distinctive enough or if you combine multiple concepts or keywords with Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT – see Search Tip handout).

Controlled vocabulary searches take advantage of the subjects, subject headings or descriptors assigned by the database staff. These words are selected specifically to bring together in one place all the items on that subject – regardless of the words that may have been used in the title or abstract to describe them. For example, SPORT Discus uses ‘Psychology, Pathological’ rather than ‘Abnormal Psychology’. If you’d used the word abnormal as a keyword you’d miss many pertinent articles. Searching under the Thesaurus (sometimes called ‘Subject Terms’ directory) will show you which terms are used as subject headings (or descriptors) and refer you to related, broader or narrower terms. You can then add these descriptors to your search.

Power Searching

You may occasionally want to do a single keyword search across multiple databases (within a single database collection, e.g. EBSCO) to get a general sense of what all is out there on your topic. To do this you’ll want to go to the Databases A-Z page. PATH: ReSEARCH Station → Articles & Databases → EBSCOhost. Next select the databases you wish to search and ‘Continue’. (Note: power searches are keyword only, no thesaurus or subject directory is available. You will lose many of the bells and whistles offered by the individual databases, but occasionally it is a great way to get started.

Questions???

Contact me jsfoster@csuchico.edu; phone: 898-6168; Office (MLIB 456);

Hrs: Mon & Wed 1 p.m.-6 p.m. or by appointment; or

Ask-A-Librarian 24/7 @ <http://www.csuchico.edu/library/ask.htm>