How to find a research article.

(Not just a scholarly article – but an article documenting actual research).

It can be very time consuming and frustrating to sift through hundreds of results to find - not just a scholarly article (one with cited references) – but a research article that contains sections Methodology, Results, and Discussion.

One simple method relies on the fact that a researcher will often refer to their experiment as an empirical study ... or just plain study.

Knowing that research is frequently called a study can help us focus our search. Here’s how:

1. Go to the advanced search of whatever database you are using. (Sorry, this technique does NOT work in Google Scholar).

2. Type your search in the blanks given (using all your favorite Boolean power tools - AND, OR, “quotes”, and truncation *).

3. In the last search blank type the word study and then set the dropdown menu next to this blank to Abstract (add a search blank if you need to).

4. Limit to Scholarly or Peer Reviewed journals.
Using an advanced database (PsycINFO, PubMed) to find specific articles with specific research methods.

Some advanced databases will allow you to not only request research – but they will allow you to request a specific type of research or experimental method.

This class will not cover the types of research in any depth – but be aware that should you need to find a quantitative or qualitative form of research – such as a longitudinal study, a meta-analysis, a case study, a clinical trial, an interview, an observational study, a randomized controlled trial, or many other specific experimental methods and forms of research – databases such as PsycINFO (psychology), ERIC (education), and PubMed (health and medicine) have the power to do just that. *

* For more on ERIC, PsycINFO, and PubMed see the Week 7 “What You Must Know” guide: ERIC, PsycINFO, and PubMed.