

# Library Research in a Nutshell

Go to the UTSA Library homepage:

<http://lib.utsa.edu>

**Need Books?**

**Search UCAT by:**  
Expert Keyword  
LC Subject Heading  
Title  
Author

**Write down:**  
Location  
Call Number  
Status

**Having trouble with UCAT?**  
Check out  
*Tips for Basic Search*  
at bottom of page

**OR**

**Search for E-Books:**  
Under "Find Databases & Articles" choose "N" then choose *netLibrary* and search by keyword, title, author, full text, or subject.



**Need Articles?**

Click on "Find Databases & Articles" then select one of these databases from the alphabetical list:

**General Databases:**  
*Academic Search Complete*  
*CQ Researcher*  
*ProQuest Research Library*

**OR**

Select a Subject Area and choose a database that fits your topic

**Need More Help?**

**Look at our Subject Guides:**

Citing in APA and MLA formats  
Scholarly vs. Popular Magazines  
Types of Periodicals

**OR**

**Research 101 Tutorial**

**OR**

**TILT: Texas Information Literacy Tutorial**

**OR**

Visit the Reference Desks  
Call 458-4573 (JPL)  
Call 458-2446 (DTN)  
Use Ask a Librarian online  
Use Chat Reference

**What if I only get a citation or abstract and not the full text of an article?**

**E-Journal Locator**

Search by Journal Title to see if the full text is available in another database.

If so, click the link to the database that has the date for your article.

**UCAT**

Search by Journal Title to see if the full text is available at the library in print or microform.

If so, write down the location and call number for your journal.

# Welcome to the UTSA Library

<http://lib.utsa.edu>

Reference staff can help you learn how to use library resources. UTSA students have access to materials not available for free on the Internet. These scholarly resources include thousands of books, periodicals, and multimedia materials. Your instructors will want you to use library resources to make sure you are using reliable and authoritative materials for your research papers.

## How do I search for books?

UCAT is the library's catalog of books, periodicals, and multimedia materials. UCAT tells you if the library owns an item, where it is, and if it is available for checkout. Be sure to write down the location and call number of the item so you can find it on the shelf.

- Note the **Tips for Basic Search** at the bottom of the initial search screen.
- Also note the subject(s) for each item; these links may help you expand your search.

## UCAT Search Tips

If you have keywords for your topic, use "Keyword Relevance" (the default search) or "Expert Keyword (and/or/not)". You can also search by Title, Author, or Subject.

AND	=	all search terms must appear in results: mexico and agriculture
OR	=	at least one search term must appear in results: teenagers or adolescents
NOT	=	search term must not appear in results: china not porcelain
" "	=	search by phrase: quotation marks for two or more words together: "gun control"
?	=	truncation: used at end of search root word to search all forms of word: law? = law, laws, lawyer, lawyers
( )	=	use parentheses to group terms: (drugs or alcohol) and (teenagers or adolescents)

## How do I search for articles?

You need to use a database to search for articles. Databases consist of article citations (references), abstracts or summaries, and sometimes the full text of articles. The library provides access to both general and subject-specific databases, such as engineering and biology databases. It is a good idea to start your search for articles with a general database that covers broad subject areas, such as:

*Academic Search Complete*  
*ProQuest Research Library*

Most databases have common search features, including keyword and subject searching. Search results may include the full text of articles; however, sometimes only citations and/or abstracts are available. If full text is not available, use the **E-Journal Locator** or **Find It @ UTSA** to see if the journal issue you need is available in another database. If the journal is not available online, use UCAT to see if the library has the issue you need in print or microform.

## Useful URLs

<b>UTSA Library Homepage</b> <a href="http://lib.utsa.edu">http://lib.utsa.edu</a>	<b>UCAT, the UTSA Library Catalog</b> <a href="http://ucats.utsa.edu">http://ucats.utsa.edu</a>
<b>Databases &amp; Article Searching</b> <a href="http://lib.utsa.edu/Databases">http://lib.utsa.edu/Databases</a>	<b>Ask a Librarian</b> <a href="http://lib.utsa.edu/ask">http://lib.utsa.edu/ask</a>

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