

How to Find Journal Articles Online

Online Resources at Hartford Seminary Library: finding the EBSCOhost databases

Did you know that in addition to the over 300 journal titles in print that the Library subscribes to, you also have access to thousands of other journals and hundreds of thousands of articles online? Some of our electronic databases provide bibliographic information (where to find copies of articles or book chapters you may need), while others will give you the complete text of what you're trying to locate.

Let's say you're interested in the latest on Muslim views of the Crusades. From the Seminary's homepage you need to click on the word "Library" found as the fifth button across the top of the page at www.hartsem.edu. From the Library page, click on Databases along the left side. The first option, Articles, leads you to a selection of Religious, Sociological, General Academic, and Spanish language databases. (While books may also contain information on your topic, books generally take a few years to be published, while research found in journals gets to press much more quickly).

Thematically, Muslim views of the Crusades would most likely be found in Religion databases, so click on that link, which will lead you to a number of choices. The main set (and most informative) of Religious databases are supplied to us by EBSCO, so click on their link which says "Search EBSCO Host" at the beginning of the opening paragraph. (You may ultimately wish to look at electronic journals from EBSCO, but for now let's limit ourselves to the main collection of databases).

You now have before you a number of databases, not all of which are relevant to your research. For example, the CINAHL database is mainly concerned with health issues. However, you would probably want to select both of the Middle East related databases - Index Islamicus and the Middle East and Central Asian Studies - in addition to the first database listed: ATLA (American Theological Library Association) Religion Database with ATLASerials, which provides many complete articles online. Select those three databases by clicking on the relevant boxes. Then click on the button which says "Continue," leading you to a search box underneath which there is a button which says Advanced Search. Click on that button.

You are now faced with three main boxes for entering search information. Your topic suggests three such terms: Crusades, Muslim, and views. Type them in. You don't have to select from the right-hand pull down menu, since none of these search terms are names of authors, or are not necessarily parts of titles of articles you may locate. In any case, use of the pull down menus is optional.

Before going ahead to “Search”, you may wish to limit your results to, say, Full Text results (where the article itself appears on your screen). On other occasions you may wish to limit your results to materials found in “hard copy” at the Seminary, to English language materials, to articles published only within a certain date range, or to Book Reviews (say) instead of Essays.

Now click on Search to find your results. You should come up with many articles, some of which are offered in .pdf format. You may now read these online, or if you prefer, print them out and / or email them to yourself by using the Add to Folder feature (go to Folder View to finalize your selection).

Searches to other databases are similarly conducted.

Happy Hunting!