What is a Citation?

A citation consists of the information needed to retrieve a particular item, such as a book or journal article.


Figure 1 - article citation in APA format

Having complete citations makes the search process much easier, but in some cases you may be able to find an item using portions of a citation.

Citation Search Methods

If you have an article citation, the e-Journals page provides three ways to search: by Journal Title, by using the Citation linker, or by entering a DOI (Digital Object Identifier). Each search takes a different route to reach the same destination. The more information you start with, the better. Ideally, you will start with a complete citation like Figure 1 above.

The search method you choose will depend on the completeness of your citation, and ultimately, personal preference. Over time, you may become more comfortable using one method over the others.

Use the e-Journals link on the Library homepage to begin searching for the article's full text.
Method #1 - Search by Journal Title

This method finds the Journal the article appears in, and then drills down from the issue year, to the issue volume, and then to the article.

To find the full text of the article cited in Figure 1 above:

1. Begin at the Find e-Journals page
2. Enter “Academy of Management Journal” in the search box

The search retrieves all of the databases in which the journal is indexed and displays their respective coverage. That is, how many issues of the journal appears in a given database. This journal is indexed in two databases.

You are also given the option to search for print copies of the journal via the CSU Print Holdings link.

For this example, we’ll choose the Business Source Premier database by clicking the database name.

The Business Source Premier database opens to a publication record that provides information about the journal and its coverage in this database.

The Bibliographic Records line indicates that there is citation information for articles dating from 4/1/1958 to the present. The Full Text line tells us how many of those articles are available in full text. It’s not uncommon for these lines to differ; a database may not contain full text for all of the articles it has citations for.

To the right is a list of years corresponding to the coverage noted in the Bibliographic Records line. Clicking on a given year opens a display of issues for that year.

Our citation example indicates that the article was published in 1999, and appears in Volume 42, issue 2. To find it, we’ll drill down from the year, to the issue, to the article.

1. In the list of years on the right, click 1999
2. Click Vol. 42 Issue 2 - Apr99
3. All of the articles from this issue are listed. Scroll through the list to find the cited article (highlighted at right).

While this method is not as direct as the methods to follow, it is a good way to browse articles in a given journal issue. This can be valuable in doing academic research, as academic journals often devote entire issues to a given topic.

Figure 4 - results of Journal Title search

Figure 5 - publication record in database

Figure 6 - All articles in Vol. 42, Issue 2

Citation Searching
Method #2 - Using Citation Linker

The Citation Linker gives you the ability to search using various facets of a citation. The amount and accuracy of the information you enter will have an effect on what the system finds.

For example, the information entered into the form shown in Figure 7 finds the full text of the article in the JSTOR database (Figure 8). Entering the Journal Title along with the volume, issue, and page numbers provides the direct route to the article; that combination can only produce one result.

However, by simply omitting one of the facets, such as page number, we no longer have that direct route to the article. The system doesn’t know what page within volume 42, issue 2 of the Academy of Management journal to open. In this case, it provides you with links to the databases in which the journal appears (Figure 9). From there, you would drill down to the article as outlined in Method #1 above.

Citation Linker Required Fields

The system requires that you provide at least ONE of the following:

- Journal Title
- ISSN (International Standard Serial Number)
- DOI (Digital Object Identifier)
Searching by DOI can be the most direct route to finding the full text of an article. After entering the DOI and hitting **Search**, the system will attempt to find the full text article within one of the Library’s databases (Figure 11).

However, be aware of some pitfalls when searching by DOI.

1. Be careful to enter the number correctly; the number must be entered **EXACTLY** for the article to be found.

2. The search result may take you outside of the Library’s resources, for example to a publisher’s webpage. If this should occur, you may be asked to pay for access to the article. **Never pay to access an article!** In most cases, the Library can get a copy via the ILLiad interlibrary loan system.

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**Figure 10 - search by DOI**

**Figure 11 - full text article found in the JSTOR database**

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**Additional Help**

Library website: www.stritch.edu/library
Live Chat with a Librarian
Library Reference Desk: 414-410-4257
Email: reference@stritch.edu