

How to: Find Journal Articles

Finding Journal Articles - Interpreting a Citation

If you have already done a database search (or are looking at the references in a bibliography) and now want to get your hands on a specific article, see the notes below.

But...

If you're trying to put together a list of articles on your research topic, start with a [database search](#).

If you're trying to figure out which databases to search, start with [Research by Subject](#) or talk to a Reference librarian.

If you're trying to find out which journals the Library has and where in the building they are located, start with [How to Find a Journal in the Library](#).

Decoding a Citation to a Journal Article

Searching the **Proquest Direct** database for articles on genetically modified food produces a long results list including the reference at **Item 70** below:

The screenshot shows a search results page from ProQuest. At the top, there are three search results listed:

- 68. [Crush the mush](#); Adrian Burton; **New Scientist**, London; Sep 8, 2001; Vol. 171, Iss. 2307; pg. 16
- 69. [Dose of clover](#); Alison Motluk; **New Scientist**, London; Sep 8, 2001; Vol. 171, Iss. 2307; pg. 11
- 70. [Bt corn has a higher lignin content than non-Bt corn](#); Deepak Saxena; **American Journal of Botany**, Columbus; Sep 2001; Vol. 88, Iss. 9; pg. 1704

Item 70 is circled in red. Below the list, there are navigation buttons: "First", "Previous", "Next", and "Last". A note below the navigation buttons reads: "Note: Not Available in Full Text Online".

Below the note is a search filter interface. It starts with "Enter one or more search terms." and has a "Search for:" field containing "genetically". To the right of this field are several dropdown menus for "in the" and "field." filters, all set to "All Basic Search Fields*".

Below the search terms are four "AND" filters:


- AND modified or engineered in the All Basic Search Fields* field.
- AND food or crops in the All Basic Search Fields* field.
- AND Periodicals in the Publication type field.
- AND All in the Article type field.

Below the filters is an "AND Date range:" section with dropdown menus for "Current", "Any Month", "1999", "to", "Any Month", and "2002".

At the bottom of the filter interface are three checkboxes:

- Show results with full text availability only
- Show peer reviewed publications
- Show total number of articles

At the bottom right of the filter interface are two buttons: "Search" and "Clear".

Note the absence of the full text icon  means it is not available from **ProQuest**. (Although it could be available from some other electronic resource).

The components of the citation for Item 70 are:

Article Title: Bt corn has a higher lignin content than non-BT corn
Author's Name: Deepak Saxena
Journal Title: American Journal of Botany
Place of Publication: Columbus
Publication Date for This Issue: September 2001
Volume and Issue Numbers: Volume 88, Issue No. 9
Starting Page of Article: 1704

You may also have come across the same reference in the bibliography of an article you have already located.

Rice ME, Pilcher CD. 1998. Potential benefits and limitations of transgenic Bt corn for management of the European corn borer (Lepidoptera: Crambidae). *American Entomologist* 44: 75–78.
Saxena D, Stotzky G. 2001. Bt corn has a higher lignin content than non-Bt corn. *American Journal of Botany* 88:1704-1606.
Shelton AM, Roush RT. 1999. False reports and the ears of men. *Nature Biotechnology* 17: 832.
Wintersteen W, Hartzler R. 1997. A survey of pesticides used in Iowa crop production in 1995.

Note the error in the paging.

Library Periodical Subscriptions:

Whether you learned of this article via a database search or by checking the references at the end of another article, the next step is to search **Find Journal Titles** to determine whether the Library subscribes to the journal entitled ***American Journal of Botany***.

Title Search:

The screenshot shows the Schaffer Library website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Catalogs, Databases & Indexes, Reference Room, Subject Research, and How To... Below this is a sidebar with various library services like Library Hours, About Schaffer, Course Reserves, New Acquisitions, Journal Titles, My Library, and Interlibrary Loan. The main content area features a search bar with a 'Quick Catalog Search' dropdown and a 'Find Journal Titles' link. A callout box with a speech bubble points to the 'Find Journal Titles' link, containing the text: 'Use to search for a known journal title'. Other sections include 'World News' with a list of news items, 'How Do I...' with a dropdown menu, and 'Special Collections: Exhibits and Updates' with a link to the 'Union Postcard Collection'.

Electronic Access to Journals:

Some of the journals the Library subscribes to in print format are also available

electronically. The **Find Journal Titles** link will display all formats. Includes years of coverage, with hyperlinks either to the individual title or to the specified database.

The screenshot shows the Schaffer Library website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'Library Catalogs', 'Databases & Indexes', 'Research by Subject', and 'Reference Room'. Below this, a search bar is visible with the text 'Use this page to search or browse for journal, serial, or newspaper titles available through Schaffer Library.' The search results show '1 record retrieved for the search: Title begins with "american journal of botany"'. The record details for 'American journal of botany (0002-9122)' are listed, including information about its availability in various collections like JSTOR and EBSCOhost.

Schaffer Library has a print subscription to *American Journal of Botany* that goes back to 1925 (v.12) and continues through the present. The journal is also available from numerous online sources including **JSTOR** from v.1, 1914 to the present.

Holdings Information in a Database

Some databases, **EBSCOhost**, **FirstSearch**, provide journal holdings information, telling the searcher whether the Library subscribes to a journal found in a search. Some databases allow the searcher to limit the search to just those journals that a library has.

The screenshot shows a database search results page titled 'List of Records'. It displays search results for 'kw: corn and kw: lignin' with 9 records found. The page includes navigation tools like 'Sort', 'Related Subjects', 'Limit', 'E-mail', 'Print', 'Export', and 'Help'. The first two records are listed with their titles, authors, and sources. The first record is 'Bt corn has a higher lignin content than non-Bt corn.' and the second is 'The phenolic fraction of maize bran: evidence for lignin-heteroxylan association.' Both records have a 'View HTML Full Text' link and a 'UNION COL' logo.

Most of these databases also provide links to full text resources as well, which allows the searcher to retrieve the article itself from an external database or a publisher's website.

The screenshot shows the Wilson Web search interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with options like 'BASIC SEARCH', 'ADVANCED SEARCH', 'BROWSE', 'THESAURUS', 'SEARCH HISTORY', 'PRINT EMAIL SAVE', and 'EXPORTING / CITING'. Below this, the search results are displayed for the query 'bt corn has a higher lignin content than non-Bt corn'. The results show one record found in 'General Science Full Text'. The record details include the author 'Saxena, D., et. al.', the title '*Bt corn has a higher lignin content than non-Bt corn*', and the journal 'American Journal of Botany v. 88 no. 9 (September 2001) p. 1704-6'. There are options to view the full text as HTML or PDF, and a note that the item is owned by Schaffer.

Another Trouble Spot: Articles in Books

Chapters of books and articles collected together and published as books are another common source of confusion because of the way some databases list them.

The screenshot shows the MLA search results for the query 'TI rap music hip hop culture and AU sylvan'. The results list one entry: '1. Rap Music, Hip-Hop Culture, and 'The Future Religion of the World!' by Sylvan, Robin. pp. 281-97. In: Mazur, Eric Michael (ed.); McCarthy, Kate (ed.); God in Details: American Religion in Popular Culture. New York, NY: Routledge; 2001. ix, 326 pp. (book article). The entry includes a reactivity bar and a note that the title is not held locally.

In this example from **MLA**, Robin Sylvan is the author of an article entitled "Rap Music, Hip-Hop Culture, and 'The Future Religion of the World'." The source of this article is a book edited by Mazur and McCarthy entitled *God in Details: American Religion in Popular Culture*. When you search the catalog for this book (or make an Interlibrary loan request), use the book's editor as author or the title *God in Details*.

Article Title:	Rap Music, Hip-Hop Culture, and 'The Future Religion of the World'
Author's Name:	Robin Sylvan
Book Title:	God in Details: American Religion in Popular Culture
Book Editor:	Eric Michael Mazur; Kate McCarthy
Publisher:	Routledge
Year:	2001