



Tips and Tricks for Researching Best Practices without a University Library ID

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Open Access

- Open Access Journals
 - Although many journals charge for access, there are a growing number who do not. These are collectively called open access journals.
 - there are high quality research articles available for you to use for free. Here are three that I would suggest you start with:
 - DOAJ - <https://doaj.org/>
 - SSRN - <https://www.ssrn.com/index.cfm/en/>
 - CORE - <https://core.ac.uk/>
 - Each one of these covers multiple disciplines. There are other, smaller, databases that are more focused.
 - Google “open access” + name of specialty e.g. psychology

PubMed

- What about PubMed? Are there free articles in that database?
 - The short answer is yes – there are full text articles, but whether or not something is available links back to our discussion about the for-profit publishing industry.
 - Some journals make a handful of articles from their most recent issue available until the next issue comes out.
 - How do you know? You don’t. Always click the title to see the full bibliographic record and then click the publisher’s button if one is available.
 - If it opens, download it immediately. Don’t assume that you’ll be able to get it again later.
 - There is a safer option in PubMed – It’s called PubMed Central
 - There are two ways to find PubMed Central content

- Look for a PMC button in PubMed
 - You can also limit results to free full text
- Search the PubMed Central database directly - <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/>

Free Text Plugins

- There are a number of plugins that you can use with your browser that will automatically look to see if the full text exists when you land on a site
 - Unpaywall - <https://unpaywall.org/products/extension>
 - OA Button - <https://openaccessbutton.org/>

Contact the Author Directly

- If you have identified a paper that you want to read and it is not available for free, write to the first author to see if they will share a copy with you.
 - Depends on lots of factors, but the primary one is if the author still retains copyright permission to share.
- Check a preprint server
 - Preprints definition - a preprint is a full draft of a research paper that is shared publicly before it has been peer reviewed. Have to use them with a grain of salt, but it's better than not having any access at all.
- How can I find one?
 - PsyArXiv - <https://psyarxiv.com/>
 - JMIR Publications - <https://preprints.jmir.org/>
 - medRxiv - <https://www.medrxiv.org/>

Dana Medical Library

- Licensing allows us to provide access to everything that the library subscribes to for anyone who comes into the library.
- That means a physical trip to the library, which isn't necessarily feasible for everyone, but it might work for some people.
- Located under the circle drive in front of the hospital
 - Parking – <https://www.uvm.edu/transportation>
- Hours – posted on the library's website. We are closed during all university holidays e.g. 4th of July etc. Again, this info will be on the library's web site.
- Search help – librarians are available M-F from 8:30 to 4:30 to help you with searching. Library staff can provide limited help any other time we are open. Suggest that you not print – there is a cost for printing. I'd just bring a trusty flashdrive and download all of the PDFs on to that or email everything to myself.