



Wichita State University Libraries



What it is.

JSTOR is an online archive of scholarly, peer-reviewed journals. The content in JSTOR is full-text, graphics included, available straight from your computer, on campus or off. JSTOR journals cover many fields of study in the liberal arts and sciences, fine arts, business, etc.

As useful as JSTOR is, *it should not be your only research tool!* JSTOR takes its name from “Journal Storage,” and the company’s mission is to preserve scholarly content, usually from the beginning of a journal’s publication up to the most recent three to five years. WSU Libraries subscribes to a product similar to JSTOR called [ProjectMUSE](#) which contains only the most recent few years of a journal. There is some overlap in the journals JSTOR and ProjectMUSE provide, so between the two collections it is sometimes possible to get the entire run of a journal in full text. And, the library gets citations and full text from several other sources, too. Explore the [Electronic Databases: by Subject](#) page to find the best resources in your subject area, or ask a librarian for guidance.

If you do not have a basic knowledge of Boolean operators and search strategies, please first view “Translating English into Computerese” (<http://library.wichita.edu/socsci/Computerese2/CINDYfinal2.html>) or read the handout “Keyword Search Using Boolean Logic” (<http://library.wichita.edu/reference/images/PDF/keyword-boolean.pdf>).

How it works.

To access JSTOR, go to the **Electronic Databases** link from the library’s homepage, www.library.wichita.edu. Search **By Title** and then find JSTOR in the alphabetical list. Currently-registered students, faculty, and staff can access the databases from off campus, too.

The first screen you will see after selecting the JSTOR link is a welcome screen. Select the **Search** tab to begin, or **Browse** to view a complete list of periodicals indexed in JSTOR and the years available. You can also begin your search right from the welcome screen – best used when your search is for a single title, author, or concept.



The **Search** tab offers three options: **Basic**, **Advanced**, and **Article Locator**. Use the **Article Locator** option when you already have a citation. Use **Basic** when you are researching a single concept and don’t need to limit your search by year, type of source, language, etc. In this handout we will cover the **Advanced** search option.

Let's say our research topic is on how women in the labor force affect the economy. We'll begin with our keywords, "women," "labor," and "economy."

The screenshot shows the JSTOR Advanced Search interface. It features a search form with three input fields containing the keywords "wom?n", "labor~", and "econom#". To the right of these fields are three dropdown menus for field selection, with "full-text" selected in each. Below the search fields is a checkbox labeled "Search for links to articles outside of JSTOR" which is checked. A "Search" button is located below the checkbox. Underneath the search area is a "Limit to:" section with a dropdown menu set to "6". Below this are radio button options for "Type": "Article" (checked), "Review", "Editorial", and "Pamphlet". There is also a "Date Range:" section with "From:" and "To:" input fields and a note "(specify dates as yyyy, yyyy/mm, or yyyy/mm/dd)". Finally, there is an "Article Language:" dropdown menu set to "All Languages".

To get the most results, I've used some wildcard characters. I've also placed a limit on the type of result I want.

1. The question mark (?) character acts as a wildcard for a single character, so that "wom?n" will retrieve both "woman" and "women."
2. The tilde (~) after a word will find variant spellings, in this case, "labor~" will also find the British spelling, "labour."
3. The hash mark (#) at the end of the word will find all forms of that word: "econom#" will find the words economical, economy, economist, etc.
4. JSTOR offers fewer field search options than most databases you may have used. It's usually best to stay with the default **full-text**. I recommend that you NOT select the field search **abstract**, because only about 10% of JSTOR's articles have abstracts.
5. Check this box. The library gets its content from various sources, and you may find articles even when they are not part of our JSTOR subscription.
6. If you are looking for journal articles, peer-reviewed articles, articles from scholarly journals, or academic articles, check the **Article** box. You can select more than one option.

But wait, there's more . . . to JSTOR's Advanced search page!

Scroll down JSTOR's Advanced search page to see more options to help make your search successful.

7. If you have a particular journal in mind, enter its title here.
8. Select one or more disciplines by checking the box(es).
9. Clicking the down arrow next to a discipline shows a list of the JSTOR journals within that discipline, and you can check one or more boxes to limit your search to those journals.

Now, here are the results of our search:

The search turned up nearly 800 articles. That's an indication that our topic may be too broad, so let's specify "cottage industry." There are two ways to do this:

1. Delete the text in the search box, insert a new term, and check "search within these results," **OR**
2. Click "Modify Search" to return to the Advanced search with your terms intact.

Let's try option 1. Now we're down to a fraction of the articles we found before, but they're much better targeted to the topic.

The screenshot shows a search results page with the following elements:

- Navigation tabs: **Articles**, **Images in JSTOR**, **Images in ARTstor**
- Search results summary: Results 1-9 of 9 for << (((wom?n) AND (labor~)) AND (econom#)) AND (cty:(journal) AND
- Sort by: Relevance (dropdown menu)
- Display: 25 per page (dropdown menu)
- Page 1 of 1 < Previous | Next > Go to page (input field)
- Actions: Select/unselect all, Save citation(s) (Requires login)
- Result 1: **Women in Agriculture: Counting the Labor Force in Developing Countries**
Ruth B. Dixon
Population and Development Review, Vol. 8, No. 3 (Sep., 1982), pp. 539-566
[Article Information](#) | [Page of First Match](#) | [PDF](#) | [Export this Citation](#)
- Result 2: **Poverty, Growth and Rural Labour Markets in India**
Kalpana Bardhan
Economic and Political Weekly, Vol. 24, No. 12 (Mar. 25, 1989), pp. A21-A38
[Article Information](#) | [Page of First Match](#) | [PDF](#) | [Export this Citation](#)

Now say we want to look at and possibly print the first article. Clicking on the article title will bring you to the first page of the article but *will not* download the full article. For that, click on the **PDF** link. Every article is preceded by a JSTOR information page, so scroll down or go to the second page to see the start of your article. From here you can print using the print icon on the PDF viewer (usually, Adobe Reader).

If you want to see your terms in context to make sure this is an article you want to read, click on **Page of First Match**. Clicking on **Article Information** will provide you with a citation and an abstract, if available, as well as information about subsequent articles that cite it. This can be useful for two reasons: first, it gives an idea of how influential the article was to the field, and second, you may find more recent articles on the topic.

Can I e-mail an article to myself?

It is possible to e-mail a JSTOR article but it's a 2-step process. First you must save the downloaded, PDF-version of your article. Then, attach it to an e-mail. *If you're in the library using one of our computers, be sure to save your file to the D: drive!*

Now you're on your way to better, more effective searching in JSTOR. As always, if you need more help, Ask a Librarian! We can be reached **in person** at the Reference Desk; by **phone** at (316) 978-3584; or by **chat** or **e-mail** from the Wu_Knows page: <http://library.wichita.edu/wuknows/>. Happy researching!

Created by [Liorah Golomb](#), Humanities Librarian, October 2008.