

FINDING AND USING ACADEMIC ARTICLES*Due Tuesday 10 May*

3 points

Your project needs to use at least three academic articles to help guide your approach to your topic.

Put simply, an academic article is anything published in an academic journal. An academic article typically has 4 characteristics:

- 1) It is part of an on-going stream of research, and therefore it cites lots of other academic articles. You can use that list of references to decide what other articles would be helpful in your project work.
- 2) It reports on original research conducted by the author(s). Therefore, each article should have a clear research question – as should your project report.
- 3) The author(s) should carefully explain their terms, data sources, and methods. You can use this to decide whether the findings are relevant to your own work. You can also decide whether any of the data sources – or the data reported in the article – might help support your work. The methods used may be helpful to you, as well, though the authors usually have more time and more methodological expertise than you have.
- 4) A draft of the article has been studied by at least three other experts in the field. The editor of the journal then asked the author(s) to revise the paper, sometimes to re-do the analysis, to answer questions or concerns raised by the reviewers. This is why professors insist on your using academic articles. Stuff you read on the open WWW and things you read in trade journals (Retailing Today, Modern Storeowner, and such) may or may not be well written, but usually have not been reviewed and improved by other experts.

Your assignment (I've **boldfaced** what I want you to turn in on 10 May):

1. Go to <http://www.lib.washington.edu>.
 - a. Click in the upper right corner to log in with your UWNetID.
 - b. Click on "Articles and Academic Databases" in the left column.
 - c. In the next screen, select "Web of Science" in the lower right.
2. Conduct a series of searches. To start, you'll probably use only the "Topic" field. (Later, you may want to find more work by a particular author, using the "Author" field.)
 - a. You can enter a single word or phrase, but when you see how many hits you get, you may want to use multiple words connected with AND or OR.
 - b. For example, you might enter "food desert*" which will find entries on "food desert" as well as "food deserts." If that yields too many results, you might enter "urban AND food desert*" or "grocery OR retail AND food desert*." (Note: I've added quotation marks for this text. You don't need to enter quotation marks.)
3. **Record your search words and how many results you get for each search. Do at least five different searches, recording all.**

4. Find at least **ten** articles that you think might be especially helpful. **Record their full citations – preferably using the CSE style that I’ve suggested**¹. For convenience, focus only on articles that you can retrieve online.
5. Read the abstract or summary for each article. Use that to decide which 5 articles you want to skim in their entirety.
6. **Record how you will make use of three of those articles.** One might help you define your key terms (retail revitalization, or internet retailing, or food desert...). Another might suggest what approaches have worked to do what you want to do (changing city zoning, or subsidizing grocers, or informing parents of the advantages of keeping kids in school). Another might have some useful data for you.
7. **Prepare a document for me that has all of the boldfaced items above.**

If you have questions about using the UW Libraries online resources – for example, how to click through to retrieve an article online – just click on the “Ask a Librarian” box in the upper right of the Libraries portal. That will get you some immediate help/ If you have questions more specific to searching for articles with geographic content, ask Amanda Hornby, hornbya@uw.edu.

¹ See <http://www.lib.washington.edu/help/guides/42CSE.pdf>.