USING DATABASES TO FIND ARTICLES FOR YOUR ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

TIPS:

1. Try all of the databases suggested on the guide. This includes Social Services Abstracts, Social Work Abstracts, PsycINFO, Academic Search Premier, Research Library, and Google Scholar. Many of them look the same because they are owned by the same company, but the content is different.

2. When you click on any of the databases from off campus, you will be asked to log in. Use your NetID and password.

SEARCHING:

Here is an example search using the database Social Services Abstracts. Let’s say you want to learn about trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). The two concepts you will want to search in any database are TRAUMA and CBT. Your search might look like this:

```
trauma AND cbt
```
This search is okay, and will get you some results. However, you might be missing something with this simple search. You can always click “Modify search” to go back to the search screen.

This search is a bit different, though I am still searching for the same 2 concepts (trauma and CBT).

- **CBT** is the acronym for Cognitive Behavior Therapy. Since at least some of the articles are likely to use the full name of the therapy rather than just CBT, I want to include both of these options in my search. Thus, I should search for **cbt OR cognitive behavior therapy**.
- Notice that I have added an asterisk * after some of the words. This is called a “truncation symbol.” This is my way of telling the database that I’m looking for articles with any variation of the word trauma* (for example, trauma, traumatic, traumatized, traumatizing, etc.). I have done the same thing with cognitive behavior* (because it is sometimes referred to as Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, and other times as Cognitive Behavior Therapy), and after therap* to make sure I capture “therapies.”
Now I have more results!

113 Results

At this point, you can use the options on the left side of the screen to narrow your results. You might want to pick “Scholarly Journals” (notice that some of the results are Dissertations – you might not want these) or narrow the date range to find the most recent material.

GETTING THE ARTICLES:

Sometimes, you will find a Full Text link. This is good news! It means you can access the article immediately with no further steps.

Other times, you will not see a Full text link. In that case, click Get it @ Dal, which sometimes looks like this:

![Get it @ Dal](image)
When you click on Get it @ Dal, the next screen will look like this:

If Dal has an electronic subscription to this journal, you can access it right away. Click “Go” beneath “Options for electronic Full Text.” **Important:** If more than one Full text link is available and the first one doesn’t work, try the other!

If no full text is available, use the Document Delivery option. Log in with your Dal card barcode and password (your Dal card must be registered first!). The Dal Libraries will find this article for you from another university, and the article will be scanned and emailed to you as soon as possible.

If you prefer learning with videos, here is a link to a short video tutorial on using the Get it @ Dal button: [http://libcasts.library.dal.ca/Journals/Getit/](http://libcasts.library.dal.ca/Journals/Getit/)

Do you still have questions? Email me at lindsay.mcniff@dal.ca