



Finding Editorials

How Do I...

Undergraduate Research Guides

Part of the "Finding Specific Kinds of Information Series"

In this guide you will learn how to:

- Explain why one would use an editorial
- Access databases
- Search for editorials
- Locate editorials in a variety of formats

Why use editorials?

Editorials provide you with specific opinions or viewpoints on a given issue. As a rule, editorials focus on current, controversial topics. As you begin to search for information keep in mind the dates when your topic was of particular interest. You are most likely to get the best results in your search for topics of national, rather than local or regional, interest.

How do I access the databases?

- From the Undergraduate Library home page (www.library.uiuc.edu/ugl), click on *Articles* in the *Find* category on the left side of the screen.
- The databases included in the *Starting Points (General Databases)* and *Newspapers* links will provide good starting points for finding editorials.

General search tips:

- Avoid using the terms pro and con in your search, unless the issue frequently uses pro- or con- to identify supporters of the position (i.e. pro-life, pro-choice, anti-abortion).
- Read the abstracts of the editorials, when available, as these will provide you with a brief summary of the writer's viewpoint.

Need More Help? Ask a Librarian!

Website:
www.library.uiuc.edu/ugl

Screen Name:
askundergrad

Fall and Spring Hours:
Open Sunday 10am-
Close Friday 10pm
(24 hours)
Saturday 10am-10pm

Reference Hours:
Sun-Thurs: 10am-Midnight
Friday & Saturday:
10am-10pm

Phone:
Reference: 217.333.8589
Info Services: 217.333.3477



Recommended databases for locating editorials:

Academic OneFile (InfoTrac)

- * Select Keyword Search in the left-hand navigation bar.
- * Type in your keywords and editorial in the search box. For example: stem cells and editorial
- * To limit your search to full text editorials:
 - Click Limit search in the left-hand navigation bar.
 - Click to articles with text box.
 - Click Submit.
- * To view individual editorials click on the Text or PDF link for a citation.

Periodical Abstracts (FirstSearch)

- * Type your search terms in the search box(es).
- * Use the Limit to: feature to search to editorial writings. Select either Commentary or Editorial under Article Type.
- * To view individual editorials click on the View full-text in HTML format link. If this link is not included, an editorial is not full-text in this database.

Academic Search Premier (EBSCOHost)

- * Type your search terms in the search box(es).
- * Go to the Limit your results section of the page and in the Document Type category select Editorial.
- * To view individual editorials click on the HTML Full Text or PDF Full Text links. If neither of these links is included, an editorial is not full-text in this database.

LexisNexis Academic

- * Select the Guided News Search option.
- * Step One: Select a news category select General News.
- * Step Two: Select a news source select Major Papers.
- * Step Three: Enter search terms enter your search terms in the first box. Enter editorial in the second box.
- * Step Four: Date range select the desired date range you wish to search. The default date range is Previous six months.
- * Click Search.
- * Please note: All results retrieved in this database will be full text. Click on the newspaper name to view the accompanying editorial.

Sources for Editorials/Essays in General Magazines in the Undergraduate Library

The titles below are located in the Undergraduate Library Periodicals section. Titles are shelved alphabetically. Note: Browsing for articles on a particular issue is not recommended; this list is simply to give you an idea of available sources.

- Atlantic Monthly
- Business Week
- Christianity Today
- Environment
- Forbes
- In These Times
- Mother Jones
- Nation
- New Republic
- New Yorker
- Newsweek
- Policy Review
- Progressive
- Public Interest
- Reason
- Science
- U.S. News & World Report
- Utne Reader

Check out other How Do I... Guides in this series, Finding Specific Kinds of Information:

- Finding Criticisms
- Finding Current Events
- Finding Local & Regional Information
- Finding Primary Sources
- Finding Pro-Con Arguments
- Finding Reviews
- Finding Statistics