

Finding Articles

This page is designed to assist you in finding scholarly articles. We'll walk through the steps of finding several articles on the same general topic. So, let's get started! :-)

Find Articles at the UCF Library

There are a few basics we want to cover quickly. First, as a UCF student, you have access to several types of reading and viewing materials through the library. You are given access through the UCF library as part of your tuition and fees. As long as you are a student at UCF, it is never necessary for you to pay for academic materials from the library.

Second, for academic purposes, we will focus on scholarly, peer-reviewed articles. In academia, we are particularly interested in empirical studies which required authors to collect and analyze data (look for a Methods section in the article). Scholarly articles are contained within academic journals. You could try to search individual journals, but UCF does not subscribe to every journal. Sometimes we have to ask for an article we want from a sister university through an inter-library loan. Don't worry, we'll keep our directions limited to articles to which UCF subscribes.

Third, we should use databases to search for academic literature. Databases provide an electronic filing system of multiple document sources, rather than searching single sources (e.g., journals) one at a time. As you will see below, because a database searches several types of sources, it will be important to specify that you only want your search to produce "scholarly, peer-reviewed articles."

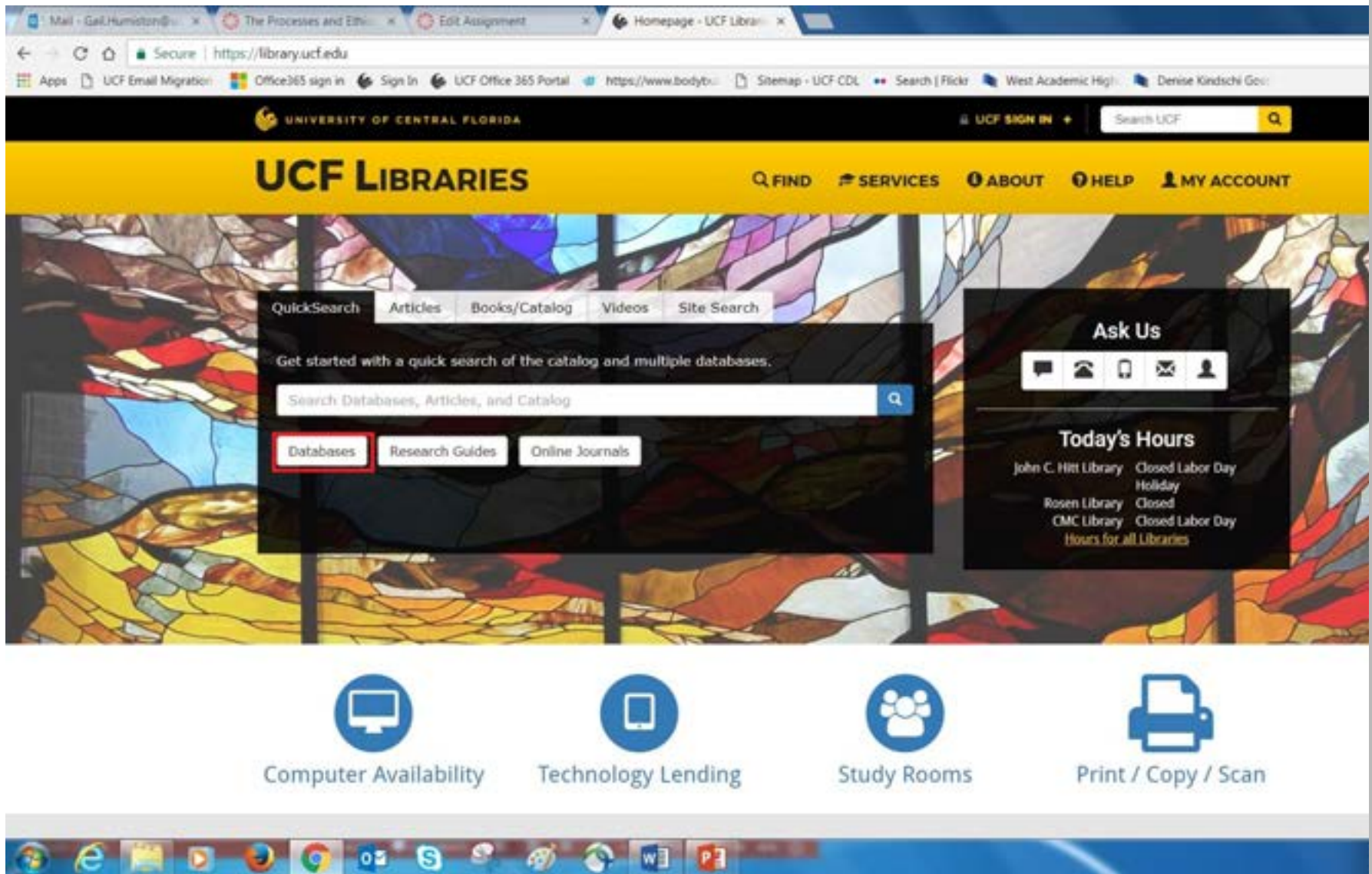
Finally, there's more than one way to go about doing a search for peer-reviewed, scholarly articles. So, if you know a different or better way than what is shown below, please feel free to continue your practices, as long as you get the desired results.

Steps and Example

In this example, we are going to examine an article on the topic of a very important criminal justice dependent variable - [recidivism](http://www.dictionary.com/browse/recidivism) (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/recidivism>). As a UCF criminal justice student who is interested in peer-reviewed, scholarly articles, follow these steps:

(Note - If a browser doesn't let you open articles, try another browser.)

First, go to the UCF library. Let's do this the way most of us do. Open a database search engine (e.g., Google) in a new tab. Search for the "UCF library". Chances are it is one of the first choices given to you. The homepage for the UCF Library looks like this:



Note in the picture above, that the button for "Databases" is in a red box. Click on "Databases" and you should see:

The screenshot shows the UCF Libraries website at guides.ucf.edu/databases. The page features a yellow header with the UCF Libraries logo and a search bar. Below the header, there are three main sections:

- Browse Databases A-Z:** A navigation bar with the text "All | ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ#".
- Databases by Subject:** A vertical list of subject categories on the left, with "PUBLIC AFFAIRS & LAW" highlighted by a red box. The categories include: ARTS & HUMANITIES, BUSINESS, EDUCATION, ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE, HEALTH, MEDICINE & NURSING, HOSPITALITY & TOURISM, MISCELLANEOUS, PUBLIC AFFAIRS & LAW, SCIENCES, and SOCIAL SCIENCES. To the right of these categories is a list of subjects: Africana Studies, Architecture, Art, Digital Media, English, Film, History, Latin American Studies, Modern Languages, Music, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Theatre, Women's & Gender Studies, and Writing & Rhetoric.
- Popular Databases:** A list of frequently used databases including: ABI/INFORM Complete (ProQuest), Academic Search Premier (EBSCOhost), CINAHL Plus with Full Text (EBSCOhost), ERIC (EBSCOhost), JSTOR, LexisNexis Academic, MEDLINE (EBSCOhost), PsycInfo (EBSCOhost), and Web of Science (ISI).

At the bottom right, there is an "Ask Us" section with a message: "UCF's local IM chat is closed. Use the Florida Ask A Librarian Chat instead." Below this message is a chat interface with a "Ask a Librarian" button and a status indicator that says "Chat is offline".

Since we are Criminal Justice and our department was housed in the College of Public Affairs and Law, click on "Public Affairs & Law" as shown in the red box. Your screen will change to:

The screenshot shows the UCF Libraries website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the UCF logo and a search bar. Below this is a yellow banner with the text "UCF LIBRARIES" and a "HOME" link. The main content area is divided into several sections:

- Browse Databases A-Z:** A horizontal menu with letters A through Z and a hash symbol.
- Databases by Subject:** A vertical list of subject categories on the left, with "PUBLIC AFFAIRS & LAW" highlighted in yellow. To the right of this list, a sub-menu is open, showing "Criminal Justice" highlighted with a red box, along with "Legal Studies", "Public Administration", and "Social Work".
- Popular Databases:** A list of popular databases including ABI/INFORM Complete (ProQuest), Academic Search Premier (EBSCOhost), CINAHL Plus with Full Text (EBSCOhost), ERIC (EBSCOhost), JSTOR, LexisNexis Academic, MEDLINE (EBSCOhost), PsycInfo (EBSCOhost), and Web of Science (ISI).
- Ask Us:** A section indicating that UCF's local IM chat is closed and suggesting the use of the Florida Ask A Librarian Chat instead. It includes a chat window with the text "Ask a Librarian" and "Chat is offline".
- Database Search:** A search bar at the bottom of the main content area.

The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen, showing various application icons.

Now, we want to get to databases that are designed for Criminal Justice, so go ahead and click on it to find:

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the UCF Libraries website. The address bar shows the URL <https://guides.ucf.edu/criminaljustice/databases>. The page title is "Criminal Justice Databases: Criminal Justice".

The main content area is titled "Best Bets" and lists several databases:

- Criminal Justice Abstracts (EBSCOhost) (1910+)
- Criminal Justice Collection (Gale)
- LexisNexis Academic
- National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) (1970+)
- ProQuest Criminal Justice (1981+)** (highlighted with a red box)

Below the "Best Bets" section, there are three columns of content:

- Criminal Justice Databases**: A sidebar menu with options: Data & Statistics (highlighted), News & Newspapers, Research Guides for Related Sources, and Web - Free Resources.
- Data & Statistics**: A list of databases including National Archive of Criminal Justice Data (NACJD), National Criminal Justice Reference Service (NCJRS) (1970+), and UCF Crime Statistics.
- Can't Find What You Need?**: A section with links for "Back to the Databases Page" and "Ask Us".
- Your Librarian**: A section featuring a portrait of a librarian.

The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen, showing various application icons.

As shown above, there are several databases for Criminal Justice. If you hover your mouse over each of them, they will give you a brief description. Please feel free to explore them, and send our librarian any questions you may have. As indicated by the red box above, you can see that **I prefer and recommend that you begin your search using the “ProQuest Criminal Justice” database.** So, let's click on that. If you're on a UCF computer, the link should take you directly to the database. If not, you will see this sign-on screen:

UCF Federated Identity

NID
NID

Password
Password

Sign On

By signing on, you agree to the terms of the UCF Information Technologies and Resources Policy.

LibraryEZProxy
You have asked to login to LibraryEZProxy

- What is my NID?
- NID Password Reset
- Trouble Signing On?

UCF UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

If you get the sign-on screen, please use your NID and password to sign in. After signing in, we should all now see the Proquest database.

The screenshot shows the Proquest Criminal Justice Database Advanced Search interface. The search terms "recidivism" and "crime" are entered in the search boxes. The "AND" operator is selected between the two terms. The "Full text" and "Peer reviewed" options are selected under "Limit to". The "Scholarly Journals" option is selected under "Source type". The "Relevance" option is selected for "Sort results by" and "50" is selected for "Items per page".

Advanced Search [Command Line](#) [Thesaurus](#) [Field codes](#) [Search tips](#) [UCF Libraries](#)

recidivism in Anywhere

AND crime in Anywhere

Limit to Full text Peer reviewed

Publication date: All dates

Source type:

- Select all
- Magazines
- Newspapers
- Other Sources
- Reports
- Scholarly Journals
- Trade Journals
- Wire Feeds

Document type:

- Select all
- Advertisement
- Annual Report
- Article
- Back Matter
- Bibliography
- Biography
- Blog

Language:

- Select all
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- French
- German

Sort results by: Relevance

Items per page: 50

Search Clear form

Here's where we need to enter our **search criteria**. One suggestion for deciding on search terms is to include your primary **dependent variable of interest**, such as recidivism and or crime. If you are interested in a particular **type of crime or offender** associated with recidivism or crime, then include that as well. Perhaps you are interested in violent crimes or offenders convicted of cocaine possession. Or, perhaps you are interested in **a particular evidence-based practice or program**, such as hot spot policing or Thinking for a Change.

As indicated by the red boxes in the picture above for our example, we want to search the main topic of "recidivism" and "crime". To keep the search broad, we will keep the defaults of searching "anywhere" for these words.

Next, we want to be sure to **limit our search to "Full text", "Peer reviewed", and "Scholarly Journals"** as shown above. If you forget to restrict your search to these criteria, you will likely find yourself sifting through all types of sources that do not meet academic writing requirements.

After entering the criteria for your search, click the "Search" button (not in red). The database will provide you with numerous peer-reviewed, scholarly articles in full text. Typically, it would be up to you to read the abstracts of the articles to decide whether it is relevant to your work, and then read the authors' original work.

In this case, I have chosen the article entitled *Post-Release Recidivism and Employment among Different Types of Released Offenders: A 5-Year Follow-up Study in the United States*.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with multiple tabs. The active tab is titled 'PQ Search Results' and displays search results for 'recidivism'. The URL is 'https://search-proquest-com.ezproxy.net.ucf.edu/criminaljusticeperiodicals/results/86AB05637E684F90PQ/1?accountid=10003'. The search results list four articles, with the third article (ID 12) highlighted by a red rectangular box. Each article entry includes a title, author information, journal name, volume/issue information, a brief abstract snippet, citation counts, and links for 'Abstract/Details', 'Full text', and 'Full text - PDF'. The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the browser window.

10 Long-Term Follow-Up Studies Are Difficult: Comment on Langevin et al. (2004)/Reply to Webster, Gartner, and Doob
Hanson, R Karl; Langevin, Ron; Gornie, Suzanne; Fedoroff, Paul. *Canadian Journal of Criminology and Criminal Justice, Toronto* 48:1 (Jan 2006): 103-105,107-117.
...term **recidivism**. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 32: 325-337
...earliest known **crimes** to the most recent. Webster et al. have selected only one
...sex **crimes**. This does not mean that a **recidivism** rate that includes
Cited by (4) References (4)
Abstract/Details Full text Full text - PDF (105 KB) Preview

11 Race, Education, Employment, and **Recidivism** among Offenders in the United States: An Exploration of Complex Issues in the Indianapolis Metropolitan Area
Lockwood, Susan Kliner; Nally, John M; Ho, Taiping. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences, Thiruvahelli* 11:1 (Jan-Jun 2016): 57-74.
...and **crime**. Specifically post-release **recidivism** was significantly correlated
...that ex-offenders would likely fall into a life of **crime** if they could not find
...**recidivism** rate because they would likely return to urban neighborhoods
Cited by (2)
Abstract/Details Full text Full text - PDF (138 KB) Preview

12 Post-Release **Recidivism** and Employment among Different Types of Released Offenders: A 5-Year follow-up Study in the United States
Nally, John M; Lockwood, Susan; Ho, Taiping; Knutson, Katie. *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences, Thiruvahelli* 9:1 (Jan-Jun 2014): 18-34.
...African-American-White difference in **recidivism**. *Journal of Research in Crime
...recidivism*. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency* 6(2), 124-132.
...and **recidivism** among different types of released offenders before, during, and
References (75)
Abstract/Details Full text Full text - PDF (779 KB) Preview

13 THE EFFECT OF DRUG USE, DRUG TREATMENT PARTICIPATION, AND TREATMENT COMPLETION ON PROBATIONER **RECIDIVISM**
Hurlburt, Beth M; Coodina, Jennifer. *Journal of Drug Issues, Thousand Oaks* 37:3 (Summer 2007): 619-641.
...with **recidivism**, the odds of a re-arrest for a drug **crime** were 2.17 times higher
...have been shown to reduce **recidivism** among this population; however, analyses
...drug use, drug treatment provision, and treatment completion on **recidivism** using
Cited by (44) References (55)
Abstract/Details Full text Full text - PDF (1 MB) Preview

Whenever you find a relevant article, I recommend that you download the Full text - PDF. In the past, I have had students contact me immediately prior to a big project that is due, informing me that they are unable to access their articles because of technological problems. At

this educational level, a failure to plan is a plan to fail. I recommend downloading the pdfs and printing them out. There are couple of ways to access the pdf, as shown below.

ProQuest
All databases > Social Sciences databases > Criminal Justice Database | Change databases

Criminal Justice Database

Basic Search | Advanced Search | Publications

Back to results < 11 of 2,833 >

Post-Release Recidivism and Employment among Different Types of Released Offenders: A 5-Year follow-up Study in the United States

Nally, John M, Lockwood, Susan Ho, Taiping Knutson, Katie *International Journal of Criminal Justice Sciences*; Thirunelveli 9:1 (Jan-Jan 2014): 16-34

Full text | **Full text - PDF** | Abstract/Details | References (75)

Abstract [Translate](#) [Hide highlighting](#)

The main focus of this 5-year (2005-2009) follow-up study of released offenders was to explore the post-release employment and **recidivism** among different types of released offenders before, during, and after the economic recession of 2008. The dataset of this study contained a cohort of 6,561 offenders who were released from the Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC), United States, throughout 2005. Results of this study revealed 37.0 percent of violent offenders, 38.2 percent of non-violent offenders, 36.3 percent of sex offenders, and 36.9 percent of drug offenders were never employed since release from prison. The **recidivism** rate was 46.6 percent among violent offenders, 48.6 percent among non-violent offenders, 54.7 percent among sex offenders, and 45.8 percent among drug offenders, respectively. Most importantly, the results of this study revealed that an offender's education and post-release employment were significantly and statistically correlated with **recidivism**, regardless of the offender's classification. This study also found a relatively high unemployment rate among released offenders within the first year of release from prison. Accordingly, almost half of the recidivist offenders were re-incarcerated within 12 months of the initial release.

Full Text [Translate](#) | Turn on search term navigation

Post-release recidi...pdf

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UCF Libraries

Documents with shared references (3028)

Related items

Search with indexing terms

Subject

- Economic conditions
- Employment

If you need further assistance in locating a scholarly empirical article from a peer-reviewed journal, or any other sources, be sure to **click on the "UCF Library Tools" at the left**. You will be directly linked to the UCF Library to the find resources and help you need! :-)