As a college student you need to go beyond Google to periodicals databases which will provide reliable information for your research.
What Is a Periodicals Database?

What is a periodicals database? A periodicals database is a collection of citations to articles on all kinds of subjects.

Where do you find periodicals databases?
Let's look at the Libraries home page. There are three links to the UK Libraries periodicals databases on the Libraries home page.
Some periodicals databases may cover a wide range of topics while others may focus on one subject.

Academic Search Premier is an example of a database that provides articles on a variety of topics.

Sociological Abstracts focuses on sociology.
Periodicals databases may contain information from publications such as newspapers, magazines or journals.

Academic researchers refer to these publications as periodicals.
Newspapers, magazines and journals are called periodicals because they are usually published on a regular, reliable periodic schedule. A periodical could be published daily, weekly, monthly, or even every three years. Although the articles vary from issue to issue, the periodical title remains the same.
There are two broad categories of periodicals, popular and scholarly.
Popular periodicals generally have glossy covers and lots of advertisements. Articles are written to inform, to persuade, or to entertain.
Articles in popular periodicals are intended for a general audience. They are generally written by journalists or reporters who are not necessarily experts on the topic they are writing about. Although articles in popular periodicals CAN be factual and informative, they are written for the lay person and so, are not generally accepted as scholarly literature. Articles in popular periodicals usually do not contain bibliographies or information on sources. Popular periodicals contain many advertisements and are easily obtained at your local grocery store or newsstand.
Scholarly journals are geared toward academics, researchers, or professionals. The authors of the articles are professors, researchers or scholars in that particular area. Scholarly journals are sometimes referred to as academic, peer-reviewed, or refereed journals.
The purpose of scholarly journals is to inform other scholars of original research or experimentation.

These journals contain lengthy articles written by scholars or experts in a particular field.

The articles in scholarly journals always include bibliographies.

Scholarly journals have few advertisements and are generally available only by subscription.
Let’s get going! You’ve just received your first research assignment. Your assignment is to write a paper about a topic currently in the news. Your bibliography must include a citation from at least one popular magazine and 2 scholarly journals. The articles must have been published within the last five years. You decide to write about..
The polar bear.
We begin our search in Academic Search Premier because it contains both popular and scholarly articles on a wide variety of subjects. We type polar bear in the top search box.

We found 1284 articles on polar bears. We should be able to find 1 popular magazine article and 2 scholarly articles from this list. But we don’t want to look through 1284 articles! How can we refine this search?
Look at the left navigation bar. See the words Subject: Thesaurus Terms?
Polar bear is listed as a Subject Thesaurus Term.
One way to refine a search is to use subject terms. Since polar bear is a subject term, by changing the first drop down box to Subject Terms you are looking for articles that are focused on the subject of polar bear.

By just changing the words “polar bear” to a subject term, we have reduced our results from 1284 to 490.
The next thing to do is to select some appropriate articles. Notice that our results are from academic journals, magazines, and newspapers.

You need at least 1 article from a popular magazine and 2 articles from scholarly journals.

You could look at the titles of the periodicals and try to determine which ones were popular and which ones were scholarly. But there is an easier way.
Because Academic Search Premier contains articles from both popular and scholarly periodicals, this database has provided a way to quickly sort by article type.

When we click on Magazines, Academic Search Premier shows us only the titles that come from popular magazines.
We have many popular magazine articles to choose from.
We can find scholarly articles in the same way. When we click on academic journals, we are shown only the articles from academic or scholarly journals. There are 177 articles from academic journals. If you would like to refine your search further, you might try adding another subject term in the second search box.
By adding the subject term **climatic changes** to our search, we have further reduced our results to 13 articles from academic journals.
Polar Bear AND Climatic Change

*Polar Bears in a Warming Climate*

Image courtesy of FreakingNews.com Used with permission.
The numbered items on this list are called citations. The citation provides the information that you need to find the article. Let’s look at article number 1.

The first line, in blue, is the article title.

The 2nd line provides information about the authors’ names and the journal in which the article was published. This journal title is Biological Conservation. It was published in June 2008. The volume number is 141. The issue is number 6. The article appears on pages 1547-1559. You will need this information for your bibliography or to locate a paper copy or to request a copy through interlibrary loan.

The 3rd line says Abstract Only. That means that the complete article is not available in Academic Search Premier. So how can you get a copy of this article?
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Let’s click on this link.
When you click on the blue Get Text button, you see a page that looks like this. This page will show you options for getting the full text of the article.

In this case, you will see Electronic full text from Elsevier SD Elsevier. When you click on this link, you will be directed to the electronic version of Biological Conservation and the article that you need.
You might go directly to the article or you may need to select the article you need from an intermediary screen.

When you click on the PDF icon...
Incorporating uncertainty about species’ potential distributions under climate change into the selection of conservation areas with a case study from the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska

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Abstract

Incorporating uncertainty about species’ potential distributions under climate change into the selection of conservation areas is critical for biodiversity conservation. In this study, we evaluate the use of a climate change – species distribution modeling framework to identify conservation areas that are likely to be selected under current and future climate scenarios. The approach is based on a multiple-model ensemble approach, which integrates the results of several different bioclimatic species distribution models to provide a more robust estimate of species potential under climate change.

The results indicate that the approach is effective in identifying areas that are likely to be selected under current climate scenarios. However, the results also suggest that the approach may be less effective in identifying areas that are likely to be selected under future climate scenarios. This is because the results are based on the projections of a single climate model, which may not accurately reflect the potential impact of climate change on species distributions.

Conclusions

The results of this study suggest that incorporating uncertainty about species’ potential distributions under climate change into the selection of conservation areas is critical for biodiversity conservation. The approach evaluated in this study is effective in identifying areas that are likely to be selected under current climate scenarios. However, the results also suggest that the approach may be less effective in identifying areas that are likely to be selected under future climate scenarios. This is because the results are based on the projections of a single climate model, which may not accurately reflect the potential impact of climate change on species distributions.
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Just ask one of our many helpful and friendly librarians at a campus library near you!