

## Research in Political Science

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Office hours (HW1730A) Monday 12:15-2pm, Tuesday 9:30-11am

### Journal Databases

- Hunter Library Databases: <http://library.hunter.cuny.edu/databases>
- Important databases for political science (use more than one!)
  - JSTOR
  - Academic Search Complete
    - Check ‘Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals’ box on the search page
  - Project Muse (includes journals and some books)
- Tips for searching
  - Use multiple terms, connected with ‘and,’ ‘or,’ etc. to narrow search to only the most relevant; use a variety of search terms
  - Sometimes databases include only the citation and abstract, but not the full text
    - Many databases will have a ‘Find it at CUNY’ link – this will search all databases Hunter has access to for the article
    - Note the title of the journal – can search by journal to determine if Hunter has access from the Library homepage: <http://library.hunter.cuny.edu/>

### Google Scholar: <http://scholar.google.com/>

- Searches books and articles
- Use variety of search terms; use multiple terms connected with ‘and,’ ‘or,’ etc. to narrow search
- Benefit of Google Scholar: each entry upon searching contains a “Cited by X” link
  - Clicking on this takes you to scholarship that has cited the original source
  - Use this to find current literature engaging similar issues



- With citation from Google Scholar, can search Hunter Library for books and journals to locate the source itself

### Library

- Search for books by keyword, etc.: <http://library.hunter.cuny.edu/>
- When you go to find a book in the library, browse the books around the one you’re looking for – books are organized by topic, so you will find related sources

### Other tips

- It is always most effective to use multiple kinds of research strategies (databases and Google scholar and library search) and multiple search terms
- Look at references in one article to find earlier articles being cited, and go find the earlier articles: use their references for your references
- Hunter Library Research Guides: <http://libguides.library.hunter.cuny.edu/HunterResearchGuides>
- Contact the Political Science subject librarian, Stephanie Margolin (smargol@hunter.cuny.edu), for research assistance