

Using JSTOR to Find Literary Criticism

JSTOR is a database that focuses on journals related to the arts, humanities, and sciences. It is unique from the other databases we have discussed so far in that it does not usually include articles published within the last five years. Instead, **JSTOR** specializes in offering the back issues of journals, many going back to the late 1800s and early 1900s. By providing access to sources from such a wide time range, **JSTOR** can give users results they wouldn't be able to find elsewhere.

To get to **JSTOR**, follow one of these options:

- From the PTC Libraries homepage (<http://www.pulaskitech.edu/library>), click on **Databases by Subject**. Choose **Literature and Composition**, and then select the first option, **JSTOR**.
- In Blackboard, go to the **PTC Libraries** link in your class list. Click on **Find Articles** and then **Databases by Subject**. Choose Literature and Composition, and then click on **JSTOR**.
- You can also access any of our databases by clicking on **Databases A-Z** from the PTC libraries homepage, and then clicking on the first letter of the database's name (in this case J).

JSTOR automatically takes you to a Basic Search screen with only one search box available. As we have done with the other databases, we will need to select the **Advanced Search** option below this search box in order to do our search. The **Advanced Search** screen includes four search boxes, followed by some additional options you can use to further limit your search.

To see how **JSTOR** works, let's search for articles on **Robert Frost's** poem **The Road Not Taken**.

- Type the poem's title, **Road Not Taken** (you can leave out initial articles in this database) in the first box and the author's last name, **Frost**, in the second box.
 - In this database it's a good idea to put longer titles or titles with several common words in **quotation marks**. This will tell the database that you want to search for the entire phrase and not just the individual words.
- You can leave the search option boxes set as "full-text" for this search. You can change these options as needed by simply clicking on the arrows located on the right side of the boxes.
- Under the search boxes, you will see the **Limit to** section. Click on the box next to **Article** to limit our results to just scholarly articles, and then click on the tan **Search** button.

The next screen displays our search results in order of relevance.

You can view your articles in two different ways:

- ❖ Click on the underlined title of your article to view the complete citation information at the top of the screen along with a preview screen of the article. You **cannot** print from this screen.
- ❖ Select the PDF option from either the search results page or the article preview page. If you choose the PDF option found on the results screen, make sure you click **OK** on the **JSTOR** Terms of Use popup box.

A couple of additional things you will want to note about PDF documents in **JSTOR**:

1. The first page of the document includes complete citation information.
2. As with the other databases we have discussed, you can print or save a PDF document using the print or save icons located on the gray PDF toolbar.

To return to your original results list, simply close or minimize the PDF window.

Please contact me via Blackboard or the information below with any questions.

Thanks!

Joanna Ewing

Instruction Librarian

jewing@pulaskitech.edu

(501) 812-2272