How to Find Peer Reviewed Journals

Do you need to use peer reviewed sources for an assignment but you’re not sure where to start? This video will show you an easy way to find peer reviewed materials.

Let’s start from the beginning, at lib.uwaterloo.ca

Now click on the Research Databases link, which is 5th from the bottom in the right-hand menu.

If you’re looking for articles on a specific subject, you’ll likely start searching in one of these databases.

I’m going to choose Scopus to start my search, which I can select from the Popular Choices drop down menu.

I’m going to search for my topic – is laughter the best medicine? – by using the keywords laughter and medicine.

Select Search and you’ll be taken to a new page of results.

Let’s say I’ve already found an article I want, but what I need to know is if it’s been peer-reviewed.

Click the Get it @ Waterloo button and scroll down to the bottom of this new screen to click on the More Options button.

Now you’ll find a link to Ulrich’s Web Global Serials Directory.

Ulrich’s Directory allows you to quickly find out basic information about the journal, such as whether or not it’s refereed.

Refereed is just another term for being peer-reviewed.

Now you can navigate back to Scopus to get access to this journal article.

Click on the Full-text button to find a list of databases that give access to this journal.

Selecting any of these links will give you full-text access to your article.

If you have any other questions about finding peer-reviewed journals, watch our videos on the peer-review process and the difference between popular and scholarly sources.

You can also ask a librarian. We’re happy to help!