

Electronic journals

Introduction

This video will help you identify journal article references on your reading lists, and show you how to use the library's electronic journals system to find the full text of a journal article when you have the reference.

Electronic journals at Ulster

The library has a large collection of over fifteen thousand electronic journals available for students at Ulster. TDNet is the system we use to manage them. You can access library electronic journals from any computer with an internet connection so you don't need to be on campus to use them. It is very important that you understand when to use the electronic journals system. Only use the electronic journals to find the full text of a journal article when you have the reference. Don't use electronic journals to find journal articles on a topic. Use databases to search for information on a legal subject.

Journal references

You need to be able to identify the various parts of a journal reference before you can use the library's electronic journals system to find the full text. This is a typical law journal reference. It starts with the authors of the article, P Palmer and J Steele, followed by the title of the journal article, Police Shootings and the Role of Tort. Next, the year the article was published, 2008, followed by the volume of the journal it was published in, volume 71. Next we have the title of the journal in which the article was published, the Modern Law Review, and finally the start page of the article, page 801. Let's go to the library home page to find the full text of this journal article.

Library home page

This is the library home page and here is the library web address. Before starting to search for library journals it is a good idea to login. The library electronic journals are password protected so that only students and staff at Ulster can use them. Click on login to web access Athens, then enter your web access username and password, the same username and password that you use for WebCT and the portal. Once you have logged in you are ready to use the electronic journals system. Select electronic journals to get to the search screen.

Searching the electronic journals system (TDNet)

Here is the journal reference we are looking for. First find out if the article that contains the article is available online by entering the journal title. Don't be tempted to enter any further details into the search box at this stage. Journal that match your title are listed on the next screen. If you get no hits always check your spelling. Unlike Google library systems don't spell check for you. So the Modern Law Review is available online, and two suppliers can provide

it for us, HeinOnline and Swetswise. So it is important next to check the date coverage for each supplier. Here is the journal reference again. It tells us that the article appeared in volume 71, 2008. HeinOnline coverage ends in 2003, so that's no good. However the Swetswise coverage is up to date, there's no end date given here, so we will select the Swetswise link.

Off campus Athens link

When you are working off campus you may come across screens that ask for further passwords. Because you have already logged in, there's no need to enter your passwords again. Just look round the screen for an Athens login link. Check the screen carefully as the link isn't always very obvious.

Navigate to the full text

Now all we do is navigate to the full text of the article. Select the year, then select the table of content for the part containing the article you need. If your reference doesn't include a part don't worry, just make an educated guess according to the page number. Now scroll down to the page you require, check the journal article matches, and select full text to display the article on the screen.

Full text journal article

Once the full text is on your screen, you can read it, or you can print it, or save it, to read or print later.

Help

We know that it can be difficult getting to grips with legal information resources, so remember to contact your librarians if you have any problems. We'll be happy to help. Now try answering the following question to make sure you understand how to search the electronic journals system.