INFORMATION LITERACY

TOOLS & TECHNIQUES

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What is a scholarly article?

- Formal conversation between a community of scholars
- The peer-review process
  - Did the author cite the appropriate experts?
  - Was the argument well supported?
  - Were data collection methodologies sound?
  - Was the topic appropriate for the journal?

How does this differ from a conversation within another community?
SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

High evaluative standards lead to reliable & credible information

Scholarly articles provide insights into thought processes of leading experts in the field

Texts cited in their bibliographies are of merit and introduce directions for further research
How do you distinguish a scholarly article?
SHORT COMMUNICATION

Low-cost diets: more energy, fewer nutrients

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Energy-dense diets offer a low-cost dietary option to the consumer. However, they are more likely to be nutrient-poor. In this study, based on the French national food consumption survey, the diet costs were estimated using retail food prices in France. Adult participants were stratified by quartiles of energy cost (in €/10 MJ). Dietary energy density, energy and nutrient intakes were then compared across groups. Participants in the lowest quartile of energy cost had the highest energy intakes, the most energy-dense diets and the lowest daily intakes of key vitamins and micronutrients. Participants in the highest quartile of energy cost had lower energy intakes, and diets that were higher in nutrients and lower in energy density. However, their daily diet costs were 165% higher. In this observational study, the more nutrient-dense diets were associated with higher diet costs. European Journal of Clinical Nutrition (2006) 60, 434–436. doi:10.1038/sj.ejcn.1602331; published online 23 November 2005

Keywords: diet cost; energy cost; energy density; energy intake; nutrient intakes
SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

Table 1  Mean energy cost, mean energy intakes, mean energy density and mean daily intakes of selected vitamins within each quartile of energy cost (EC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>EC1</th>
<th>EC2</th>
<th>EC3</th>
<th>EC4</th>
<th>P Anova</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Energy cost (€/10 MJ)</td>
<td>4.89(4.80-4.98)</td>
<td>5.93(5.84-6.01)</td>
<td>6.86(6.76-6.95)</td>
<td>9.04(8.95-9.13)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daily cost (€/day)</td>
<td>4.49(4.33-4.65)</td>
<td>5.32(5.16-5.47)</td>
<td>5.98(5.83-6.14)</td>
<td>7.41(7.25-7.57)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy intake (Mj/day)</td>
<td>9.34(9.03-9.45)</td>
<td>8.98(8.77-9.18)</td>
<td>8.73(8.52-8.94)</td>
<td>8.23(8.01-8.43)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy density (Mj/kg)</td>
<td>6.42(6.30-6.54)</td>
<td>6.08(5.96-6.20)</td>
<td>5.97(5.85-6.09)</td>
<td>5.72(5.60-5.84)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiber (g/day)</td>
<td>17.7(17.1-18.4)</td>
<td>17.8(17.1-18.5)</td>
<td>17.5(16.9-18.2)</td>
<td>17.3(16.7-17.9)</td>
<td>0.1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin C (mg/day)</td>
<td>65.4(60.0-70.8)</td>
<td>79.1(73.8-84.3)</td>
<td>85.3(80.0-90.5)</td>
<td>96.1(90.7-101.4)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin D (µg/day)</td>
<td>2.27(2.03-2.42)</td>
<td>2.44(2.25-2.64)</td>
<td>2.87(2.67-3.06)</td>
<td>2.91(2.72-3.11)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin E (µg/day)</td>
<td>6.98(6.66-7.30)</td>
<td>7.20(6.89-7.52)</td>
<td>7.47(7.16-7.79)</td>
<td>7.94(7.62-8.26)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vitamin A (mg/day)</td>
<td>2368(2173-2565)</td>
<td>2834(2643-3025)</td>
<td>2881(2689-3072)</td>
<td>2905(2712-3099)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folate (µg/day)</td>
<td>238(229-248)</td>
<td>255(246-265)</td>
<td>276(267-286)</td>
<td>290(280-300)</td>
<td>0.0001*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcium (mg/day)</td>
<td>809(779-839)</td>
<td>807(778-838)</td>
<td>822(793-852)</td>
<td>790(759-819)</td>
<td>0.5015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron (mg/day)</td>
<td>11.6(11.3-12.0)</td>
<td>12.3(11.9-12.6)</td>
<td>12.4(12.0-12.8)</td>
<td>12.5(12.1-12.8)</td>
<td>0.0070*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Means were adjusted for age and gender. In parenthesis: 95% confidence interval
*Indicates that the P-value for a linear trend was <0.01.

Methods
Estimation of diet costs was based on the 1998 dietary survey conducted by the French Agency for Food Safety (Volatier, [1]).

Results
Participants were stratified by quartiles of energy cost (in €/10Mj). Dietary energy density and daily energy and vitamin

Acknowledgements
We are grateful to Jean-Luc Volatier for providing us the access to the INCA database and to France Caillavet for providing us the access to the SECODIP database.

References
NON-SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

Advertising

Charged Language / Opinion

Comments

Eye-Catching Images

Social Networking

No References!
SCHOLARLY VS NON

What is the purpose of a scholarly article?
• To contribute to the field
• To be cited
• To solve a problem
• To share and draw conclusions from new research
• To enhance their (and their affiliation’s) reputation
• To extend the conversation on a topic

What is the purpose of an article in a popular magazine?
• To sell subscriptions
• To increase revenue through advertising
• To entertain
• To be provocative
• To be creative
• To advance a political agenda (sometimes)
BIAS

LEFT

Government Agency Publications

Academic Books & Journal Articles

RIGHT

The Nation

Fox News Channel

National Review
1. **Browse sources:** Survey current events. Browse database by topic and subtopic. Follow your interests.

2. **Choose a topic:** “I want to write about how poor people in this country are more likely buy less healthy foods and are more prone to obesity.”

3. **Define research question (think carefully about terminology!):** “What is the relationship between poverty and obesity in the United States?”

4. **Extract key words:** “Poverty” “Obesity” “United States”

5. **Combine terms in Advanced Search**
EXERCISE PERSISTENCE

Are some first-page results relevant?
Are there enough to choose from?
Are they authoritative / scholarly?

If the answer to one or more of the questions above is “No”, don’t give up or settle for sub-par or semi-related sources!

Modify search terms using synonyms or related concepts.

Try skimming the literature for new terms:

- The relevant articles I could find so far keep using the terms “Food Choices”, “Nutrition”, and “Socio-Economic”.
ADVANCED SEARCHING

ALWAYS use Advanced Search

- Boolean Operators
- Search Select Fields
- Limit Source Type
How do socio-economic status, perceived economic barriers and nutritional benefits affect quality of dietary intake among US adults?
Cited by (27)
Citation/Abstract  Full text - PDF (201 KB)

Socio-economic and behavioural factors are predictors of food use in the National Food Stamp Program Survey
...could be modified via nutrition education (US Department...behavioural factors on food choices. This is because a...of coexistence of obesity and hunger in some
Cited by (12)
Citation/Abstract  Full text - PDF (145 KB)

Longitudinal Change in Diet Quality in Australian Adults Varies by Demographic, Socio-Economic, and Lifestyle Characteristics1-3
Arabshahi, Simin; Lammhann, Petra H; Williams, Gail M; Marks, Geoffrey C; van der Pols, Jolieke C. The Journal of Nutrition 141. 10 (Oct 2011): 1871-9.
References (48)
Citation/Abstract  Full text - PDF (565 KB)
MINING BIBLIOGRAPHIES

Extract ideas for new sources from bibliographies


ProQuest

ti("low-cost diets") AND au(Darmon)

Did you mean: ti("low-cost diets") AND au(daemon)
BE A GOOGLE POWER-USER

Search operators or Advanced Search

- Example: Search Government Data
  “Food Choice” (Statistics | Data) site:.gov filetype:pdf

Google Scholar

- Favor most cited
- Never pay for an article!
WHEN TO CITE

Quotations

Paraphrasing

Summary

Facts, Information, and Data

Supplementary Information


KEEP ORGANIZED

Download PDFs for relevant articles
• They may be harder to find the second time!

Generate and save Works Cited
• Findability is the purpose of references!
• Zotero, RefWorks, EndNote
• Annotate!

Use the cloud
• Google Drive, DropBox, SkyDrive, etc.
SOURCES SCOPE

- Encyclopedias & Textbooks (Tertiary)
- Books (Secondary)
- Journal Articles
- News
- Web 2.0 (Primary)
BROAD TO NARROW

Find a happy medium that is likely to yield useful results for the length and audience of paper assigned.

- **Too Broad**: Presidential Elections in the United States
- **Too Narrow**: Repercussions of high voter turnout among Women in Wyoming in the 1992 presidential election
- **Appropriate Scope**: Influence of gender on predicted voting patterns
START EARLY

• Finding the right sources, using them meaningfully and cohesively, and citing them properly takes much longer than you might imagine!

• You may find that the evidence doesn’t support your thesis statement.

• Your intended topic may be too broad for a paper of the assigned length.

• ...Or it may be too narrow and have too few sources to cite.
As residents return to their homes after Hurricane Sandy, they are airing them out in frigid temperatures and even throwing out cherished items in an effort to prevent mold growth."

The fear of mold is plaguing those impacted by Hurricane Sandy, prompting them to dispose of treasured possessions and leave windows open in cold weather (Hager 13).
SUMMARY

1. Search like a pro

2. Be selective with regard to sources

3. Cite carefully

4. Take advantage of the library, you already pay for it!