

JSTOR

Resource Guide

HDFC Library · Ashoka University

A Comprehensive Guide to Searching, Accessing,
and Maximizing JSTOR for Academic Research

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Last Updated	April 2026

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1. Overview of JSTOR









JSTOR (Journal Storage) is a world-renowned comprehensive digital archive of scholarly literature designed to support teaching, learning, and research across multiple disciplines. The HDFC Library at Ashoka University provides institutional access to the JSTOR collection, offering a vast range of peer-reviewed e-journals covering Arts, Economics, Education, English, History, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology and Anthropology, Mathematics and Statistics, Biological Sciences, Earth Sciences, and more.

With its extensive historical backfiles and high-quality academic content, JSTOR serves as a foundational resource for accessing reliable, well-cited research — essential for academic and interdisciplinary studies at Ashoka University. The platform combines historical depth with contemporary relevance, offering both archival materials and current research publications.

Did You Know?

JSTOR's mission is to preserve and provide access to the scholarly record. Many journals on JSTOR are available from their very first issue, giving researchers unparalleled historical depth.

2. Key Features and Highlights

Feature	Description
 Comprehensive Archive	Millions of articles, books, and primary sources spanning centuries of scholarship.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Peer-Reviewed Content	All journal articles undergo rigorous peer review, ensuring high academic standards.
 Deep Backfiles	Access from Volume 1, Issue 1 of most journals — trace the full history of a field.
 Interdisciplinary Coverage	Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences — facilitating cross-disciplinary research.
 Advanced Search	Boolean operators, filters, semantic search, field-level search, and proximity operators.
 Mobile Friendly	Fully responsive — accessible on desktops, tablets, and smartphones.
 PDF Downloads	Full-text PDF access for all institutionally subscribed content.
 Image Collections	Thousands of historical images, artworks, maps, and illustrations.
 Research Reports	Policy papers and publications from think tanks and research organizations.

3. Access Details for Ashoka University

Access Type	Details
On-Campus Access	Available directly through the HDFC Library network — no login required on campus.
Off-Campus / Remote	Use your Ashoka University credentials via the e-Library portal: https://elibrary.ashoka.edu.in
JSTOR URL	https://www.jstor.org
Eligible Users	All currently enrolled students, faculty, and research staff of Ashoka University.

 **Pro Tip**

Always access JSTOR through the library portal to ensure full institutional access and avoid hitting article-view limits.

4. Subject Coverage and Journal Examples

The HDFC Library's JSTOR subscription spans 14 major subject areas. Below is a curated overview of representative journals in each discipline. Full journal lists are available as downloadable PDFs on the HDFC Library JSTOR page.

Economics

Ábaco · Agenda: A Journal of Policy Analysis and Reform · American Law and Economics Review · Annual Review of Economics · Eastern Economic Journal · Economic Geography · Environment and Development Economics · History of Economic Ideas · Hitotsubashi Journal of Economics · Indian Journal of Industrial Relations — and many more.

Business and Economics

Academy of Management Learning & Education · Academy of Management Perspectives · Administrative Science Quarterly · AEA Papers and Proceedings · American Economic Journal: Applied Economics · American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics · American Economic Journal: Microeconomics · Applied Economic Perspectives and Policy — and many more.

English

Acta Linguistica Academica · Agni · American Speech · Anthropological Linguistics · Arendt Studies · Arthuriana · Anthropos · Ambit — and many more.

Education

Anthropology & Education Quarterly · Education Finance and Policy · Journal of Research in Music Education · Music Educators Journal · Philosophy of Music Education Review · The American Biology Teacher · Hispania — and many more.

History

Aboriginal History · Africa Development · African Affairs · African American Review · African Economic History · African Music · African Security · Acadiensis — and many more.

Philosophy

American Philosophical Quarterly · Analysis · Canadian Journal of Philosophy · Dialectica · Environmental Philosophy · Erkenntnis · Ethics · Critical Philosophy of Race — and many more.

Religion

Buddhist-Christian Studies · History of Religions · Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion · Journal of Biblical Literature · Journal of Church and State · Journal of Islamic Studies · Die Welt des Islams — and many more.

Political Science & International Relations

Armed Forces & Society · Foreign Affairs · Foreign Policy · Conflict Management and Peace Science · Democracy and Security · European Review of International Studies · Contemporary Arab Affairs — and many more.

Psychology

Child Development · Educational Psychology Review · Journal of Behavioral Education · Merrill-Palmer Quarterly · Political Psychology · Scientific American Mind · Behavioral Disorders — and many more.

Sociology and Anthropology

American Anthropologist · American Journal of Sociology · American Ethnologist · American Journal of Education · American Educational Research Journal · Acta Sociologica — and many more.

Biological Sciences

Ambio · BMJ: British Medical Journal · Clinical Infectious Diseases · Culture, Health & Sexuality · Cancer Causes & Control · East Asian Science, Technology, and Medicine — and many more.

Mathematics and Statistics


Biometrics · Biometrika · Journal of the American Statistical Association · Journal of Applied Probability · Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A, B, C, D) · Journal of Computational Mathematics — and many more.

Earth and Environmental Sciences





American Journal of Botany · Annals of Botany · Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics · Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine Research · Applied Vegetation Science · Behavioral Ecology and Sociobiology — and many more.



Multidisciplinary

A broad range of interdisciplinary journals spanning multiple fields. · Full list available via the HDFC Library portal. — and many more.

 Full Lists	Downloadable PDF lists for each subject are available on the HDFC Library JSTOR page: https://library.ashoka.edu.in/elementor-18316/
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5. Content Types Available

Content Type	Description
 Journal Articles	Peer-reviewed articles from thousands of academic journals across all disciplines.
 Books & Chapters	Scholarly monographs and edited volumes from leading academic publishers.
 Primary Sources	Historical documents, manuscripts, pamphlets, and archival materials.
 Images	Artworks, photographs, maps, botanical illustrations, and historical images.


 Research Reports	Policy papers and publications from think tanks and research organizations.
 Pamphlets	Historical pamphlets and grey literature from various time periods.

6. Search Strategies and Tips for Efficient Research

6.1 Keyword versus Semantic Search

JSTOR offers two primary search modes that serve different research needs:


- **Keyword Search:** Retrieves results containing your exact search terms. Ideal for precise, known-term searches where specific terminology is important.
- **Semantic Search:** Understands the meaning behind your query and retrieves conceptually related results. Ideal for exploratory research on a broad topic.

 Tip	Use keyword search when you know the exact terminology; use semantic search when exploring a broad or unfamiliar topic.
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6.2 Boolean Operators

Boolean operators allow you to combine or exclude search terms to refine results:

Operator	Function	Example
AND	Narrows results — both terms must appear	climate AND migration
OR	Broadens results — either term is accepted	globalisation OR globalization
NOT	Excludes a term from results	democracy NOT India

 Tip	Combine operators for complex queries: (climate OR environment) AND migration NOT policy
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6.3 Filters and Facets

After running a search, use the sidebar filters to refine your results:

- **Date Range** — limit to specific publication years
- **Discipline / Subject Area**
- **Content Type** (articles, books, reports, primary sources)
- **Publication** — narrow to a specific journal
- **Language** — filter by publication language

6.4 Truncation, Wildcards, and Proximity Searching


Symbol	Usage	Example
* (Asterisk)	Truncation — finds all word endings	environ* → environment, environmental, environmentalism

? (Question mark)	Wildcard — replaces a single character	wom?n → woman, women
~N (Tilde+number)	Proximity — terms within N words of each other	"climate migration"~5

6.5 Advanced Search Fields

Use field-specific operators to target exactly where JSTOR looks for your terms:


Field Code	Function	Example
ti:	Search within article/book titles	ti:urbanization
au:	Search by author name	au:Amartya Sen
ab:	Search within abstracts	ab:climate change adaptation
pt:	Search by publication type	pt:book
so:	Search by source/journal name	so:Economic Geography

 Tip	Combine field codes for precision: ti:urbanization AND au:Sen AND ab:inequality
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6.6 Browsing Collections

Use the Browse menu to explore JSTOR's content systematically:

- Browse by Discipline — explore all journals in a subject area
- Browse by Journal Title — find and explore a specific journal's full archive
- Browse by Publisher — discover all titles from a specific publisher
- Browse Images — explore JSTOR's image collection by theme or period

 Best For	Browsing is ideal for systematic literature reviews or when exploring the complete output of a specific journal over time.
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7. Guidance for Researchers

7.1 For Undergraduate Students

- Start with semantic search to explore your topic broadly before narrowing down.
- Use filters to limit results to peer-reviewed articles published within the last 10–15 years.
- Check 'Related Articles' to discover adjacent scholarship and broaden your reading list.
- Download full PDFs and organize them by topic for easy bibliography management.
- Use JSTOR's stable URLs (permalinks) when citing articles in your assignments.

7.2 For Graduate Students and Researchers

- Use Advanced Search with field operators (ti:, au:, ab:) for highly targeted literature reviews.
- Leverage backfile access to trace the historical development of theories and concepts.
- Apply Boolean operators and proximity searching to find nuanced relationships between concepts.
- Export citations directly to reference managers such as Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote.

- Combine JSTOR with other HDFC Library databases for comprehensive multi-source coverage.
- Document your search strategy (terms, filters, date ranges) for reproducibility.

7.3 For Faculty

- Build course reading lists using JSTOR's stable permalinks for each assigned article.
- Assign primary source materials from JSTOR's archival collections for historical analysis.
- Recommend specific journals within JSTOR to students for discipline-specific reading.
- Use Browse Collections to identify canonical texts and foundational papers in your field.
- Request library instruction sessions to train students in effective JSTOR searching.

8. Suggestions for Maximizing JSTOR

Suggestion	Details
1. Plan Your Search Strategy	Identify key terms, synonyms, and related concepts before you begin searching.
2. Use Multiple Approaches	Combine keyword and semantic searches for comprehensive topic coverage.
3. Save Your Searches	Create a free JSTOR personal account to save searches, articles, and citation lists.
4. Use Stable URLs	Use JSTOR permalinks when sharing or citing articles to ensure consistent access.
5. Explore Related Content	Use JSTOR's 'Related Content' suggestions to discover adjacent scholarship.
6. Download PDFs	Download full PDFs for offline reading, annotation, and long-term access.
7. Export Citations	Export directly to Zotero, Mendeley, or EndNote to build bibliographies efficiently.
8. Check Full Journal Runs	JSTOR often provides the complete archive of a journal from its founding issue.
9. Attend Library Workshops	The HDFC Library offers training sessions on database searching and research skills.
10. Consult a Librarian	Subject librarians can suggest the best search strategy for your specific research need.

9. Contact and Support Information

HDFC Library – Contact Details

	Details
📍 Location	HDFC Library – Ashoka University, Plot No. 2, Rajiv Gandhi Education City, Rai, Sonipat, Haryana – 131029
📞 1st Floor	+91-130-2300423
📞 2nd Floor	+91-130-2300424
📞 Shanghvi Library	+91-130-2300444
✉ Email	library@ashoka.edu.in
🕒 HDFC Library Hours	24×7 (except Friday nights)
🕒 Shanghvi Library Hours	Monday – Friday, 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM

JSTOR Official Help Resources

Help Topic	URL
Search Help: Resources & Overview	https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/115004701828
Keyword versus Semantic Results	https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/34461819575831
Boolean Operators	https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/115004733187
Using Filters and Facets	https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/4405598751255
Truncation, Wildcards, and Proximity	https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/115012261448
Advanced Search Fields	https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/115004732567
Browsing Collections	https://support.jstor.org/hc/en-us/articles/4407698279831

Follow HDFC Library on Social Media

Platform	Handle	URL
 Instagram	@ashokaunivlib	https://www.instagram.com/ashokaunivlib/
 LinkedIn	HDFC Library Ashoka University	https://www.linkedin.com/in/hdfc-library-ashoka-university-37138a327/
 YouTube	HDFC Library Ashoka University	https://www.youtube.com/@HDFCLibraryAshokaUniversity

This research guide was prepared by the HDFC Library, Ashoka University.
 For questions, updates, or suggestions, please contact library@ashoka.edu.in
 Last Updated: April 2026