Searching for articles in anthropology is not hard but it needs some planning before starting:

**Create a list of synonyms on your topic** (Check the [How to Pick at Topic](#) Page for more tips)

- You can use your syllabus or textbook to find some preliminaries keywords
- Pay attention what phrases scholars used to describe the topic you are interested in. Research terminology change through time.

**Tip:** To narrow down results consider the following:

**Select geographical locations:**

- Regions: e.g. Middle East, Africa, South Asia, Latin America, Oceania
- Specific country, state, city, hospital, university: e.g. Mexico; Detroit; "John Hopkins Hospital"; "University of Connecticut"

**Select a specific group of people** that identify by their occupation, ethnicity, sex, age, religion, social class, medical condition

- Examples: "Day Laborers"; "Hispanic American"; Male/Female/Transgender/LGBT; Teenagers/Seniors; Catholics/Protestants; Upper Class/Middle Class/Working Class; "Cancer patients"

**Select a specific timeframe:**

- Historical events: Cold War, Iran Revolution, Cuban Missile Crisis
- Twentieth Century: by decades (1960s, 1990s, etc.); a meaningful year, 2011
- Current events: at least 5 years old.

  - Events too recent (in the last 3 years) may not have generated enough academic/scholarly studies but you can research those events by searching newspapers databases

**Find other keywords by looking at your syllabus and the readings** provide by your professor for other terminology and try different synonyms to make sure you are finding all possible sources.

**Tips:** When searching a general and/or multidisciplinary database to maximize your results, add the keywords, "anthropology", "anthropological", "ethnographical" or "ethnography" as an additional keyword, e.g. "coming of age" ritual AND "anthropological studies". This
technique works too when searching Google Scholar. When searching an anthropological database or journal, you do not need to use the words anthropological or archeological.