

Accessing Journal Articles

Paywalls limit access to research by charging people to read journal articles. Using the tips below, you can still get access to valuable police research.

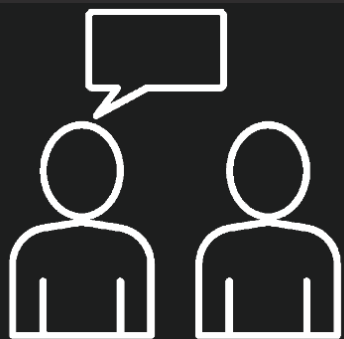
Tip 1: Google Scholar

Typing 'Google Scholar' into Google will bring you to a browser that can be used to search through literally millions of articles to find the study you need. Many articles found on Google Scholar will have free PDF versions available. Just click the PDF and the article will download to your computer.



Tip 2: Email the Authors

If the article you're interested in cannot be found online, you should still be able to access the author's email. Email the author directly and ask for a copy of their article. Researchers are used to receiving these emails and most will be happy to share their articles with you.



"May I have access to your article on _____?"

Tip 3: Open Access Articles

Unlike journals with paywalls, some journals provide open access to their content, which means that anyone with access to the internet can view their articles. Notable journals that do this are *Criminologie*, *Frontiers*, and *PLOS ONE*. Search through these journals and you'll find a lot of good policing research.



Tip 4: Open Article Repositories

Researchers are increasingly uploading versions of their articles to sites called open article repositories that are accessible by the public. The *Open Science Framework* is one of the most common repositories and can be used to find free versions of scientific journal articles, including many that focus on policing.

Tip 5: Unpaywall Software

Numerous software programs exist that seek out and find open access research on the web by scanning thousands of available open access repositories and publications. *Unpaywall* is one popular program. It's free and easy to set up and use. You can download it from here: <https://unpaywall.org>.

