Let’s look for articles!

Searching General OneFile
Why Should I Look Here?
(My assignment doesn’t say I have to use articles so why should I?)

• While books take time to be written and published, articles in magazines, newspapers, and journals have a shorter turn-around time and can be as current as yesterday.

• The article databases are big and therefore can cover more topics than our library catalog.
• Articles in General OneFile and similar databases have already been published in print. They have editors and fact-checkers and other people who verify the authority of an article.

• Who wrote the information can be as important as the information itself. Would you believe the Pillsbury dough boy if he told you that Pillsbury’s crescent rolls helped you lose weight?

• On the other hand, even journalists have been known to make stuff up (see the case of Jayson Blair - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jayson_Blair).
How do I Search?

• From the library’s web page click on Databases A - Z under Find Articles & Databases.

• Scroll down to the “G’s” and click on General OneFile.
Psychological Impact of Ovarian Cancer

My topic is ovarian cancer with a focus on the psychological impact so in the Subject Guide Search box I type in ovarian cancer.

There are many limits I can put on my search, but for now I’m going to leave it open. We’ll talk about limits at a later point.
Our search found two subjects with the words “ovarian cancer” in them. The best match always comes first and you can see there are 3865 articles on this subject.

We’re going to click on the Subdivisions link underneath Ovarian Cancer, since we’re interested in only the psychological impact of ovarian cancer.
Breaking it Down

Once you click on the Subdivisions link you’ll see an alphabetical list and to the right will be the number of articles for that subdivision.

Many times there will be several good subdivisions for your topic, so be sure to take a look at the whole list.

We’re going to click on Psychological Aspects since that’s a great match for our topic.
The articles are split into different types of periodicals – magazines, journals and newspapers. The newest articles are always at the top of the list.
Understanding an Article Citation

Title of the article comes first. (Women’s Health) and (Brief Article) are NOT part of the title.

If there’s an author, they are listed after the title.

In bold and italics is the name of the source – the periodical the article was published in.

After the source is the Volume.Issue number. Depending on what kind of periodical you’re citing you may not need this information.

Last comes the page number and (number of pages of the article).

On this side of the screen you might see Brief Article, Article, Editorial, etc. This is just to let you know what kind of an article it is.

(Publication date comes next.)
But Where’s the Article?

The next line down tells you what kind of article you’ve got:

- **Full-text or Full-text with graphics**
  - This means the whole article is available.
    - Sometimes articles are very short (only a few sentences).

- **Abstract**
  - An abstract is a summary of an article.
    - From a few sentences to a few paragraphs this will tell you what the article is going to discuss.

- **Citation**
  - A citation is simply the Who, What, Where and When of an article (author, title, periodical and published date, etc.).
Once you click on Full-text to read your article, you’ll see the article citation at the top of the article. To the left of the citation are the Subjects.

These are all of the official subjects given to this article. Besides the psychological aspects and risk factors of ovarian cancer, this article is also going to discuss methods of counseling and the physical and mental health of women in general.

If your article is several pages long it’s a good idea to look at the subjects first to see if it will cover your needs or if it’s going to cover things you aren’t interested in.

Sometimes an article won’t have any subjects listed, this is unfortunate but it does happen.
How do I do a Keyword Search?

- Click on the Basic Search link at the top of the page.
- Don’t forget to use “and” to join your search terms together!
To Limit or not to Limit…

• The most popular limit is to full text.
  – This means that only articles that can be read in the database will show up in your list.

• If you limit to full text you will lose articles that might have been reached through the Get Full Text link or that the GCC library could get for you from another library.

• Only limit to full text as a last resort NEVER as a first choice!
Your Skills Will Grow!

• General OneFile can seem overwhelming because of its size.
• Understanding how to tweak your search will help you narrow in on useful articles – this will only come with practice!
• When in doubt – click on the database Help link or Ask A Librarian!