Using JSTOR

In addition to Academic Search premier, Helmke Library owns the license for a lovely academic database known as JSTOR. Although this database is not as extensive as Academic Search Premier, it tends to be well-focused, plus ALL its articles are full-text pdf files, which are very easy to cite, because you can cite them as if the came from print journals (you can forget about the access date, URL, etc.), plus the have real page numbers.

Particularly if you are going to do a history topic, a literary topic, an anthropological topic, an educational topic, a psychological topic or a political science topic (among others), this database is for you!! Here, for example, is the list of “categories” of academic journals searched by JSTOR:

African American Studies - 8 journals
African Studies - 12 journals
Anthropology - 14 journals
Archaeology - 10 journals
Asian Studies - 14 journals
Botany - 8 journals
Business - 46 journals
Classical Studies - 11 journals
Ecology - 21 journals
Economics - 26 journals
Education - 7 journals
Finance - 5 journals
General Science - 7 journals
Geography - 8 journals
History - 40 journals
History of Science - 9 journals
Language & Literature - 48 journals
Latin American Studies - 7 journals
Mathematics - 17 journals
Middle East Studies - 9 journals
Philosophy - 17 journals
Political Science - 26 journals
Population Studies - 9 journals
Slavic Studies - 4 journals
Sociology - 29 journals
Statistics - 13 journals

In order to use this database, you must, as usual, go through Helmke: here is the URL for their collection of databases:
http://www.lib.ipfw.edu/623.0.html
After you find JSTOR, enter the database (it will prompt you for your username and password), and you'll come to a screen that looks like this:

Next, just click here, and you get this:

However, before you can actually begin your search, you must scroll down this screen and pick the general categories of journals you want JSTOR to search:
Check the categories that look promising, and then scroll back up to the top and try your search. Let’s say you are interested in the impact of standardized testing on high school students; here is what I entered:

I got 80 hits (a very nice number – you can read through a list this long – anything over a 100 is a little much):
Now, notice a couple of things: first of all, these are GREAT articles — because they are upwards of 20 pages — you'll get tons of good things to quote from this length of an article. And notice too that you have the complete citing information here (but not in the correct format*** yet.

And finally notice that you can “review” the article before printing it by going to the link marked “Citation/Abstract.” An abstract, as you may well know by now, is very useful in determining if an article is what you think and hope it actually is.

That’s it; enjoy!!

***Here is how you actually cite, for your Works Cited page, this information:

This, which appears on the JSTOR document,

From First Grade Forward: Early Foundations of High School Dropout
Karl L. Alexander; Doris R. Entwisle; Carrie S. Horsey

Becomes, this: