How do Databases Work? The Life Cycle of an Article

If you have attended a training in the Library, you know that our databases are the best place to search for scholarly articles. But how does an article make its way from the author to you?

1. **Article** is researched and composed by the author (a scholar or expert in his/her field).

2. Article is submitted to a scholarly journal. Journal reviews and accepts article.

3. Article is published in journal.

4. Issue of journal containing article is digitized, then indexed by database.

5. Access to article is given to database users - sometimes in its entirety (full text), and sometimes just as an overview (abstract).

6. Article is discovered, read, and incorporated into your research!