

# International Encyclopedia of Human Geography





## **FEATURES**

Provides an authoritative and comprehensive source of information on the discipline of human geography and its constituent, and related, subject area

Includes over 1,000 detailed entries on philosophy and theory, key concepts, methods and practices, biographies of notable geographers, and geographical thought and praxis in different parts of the world.



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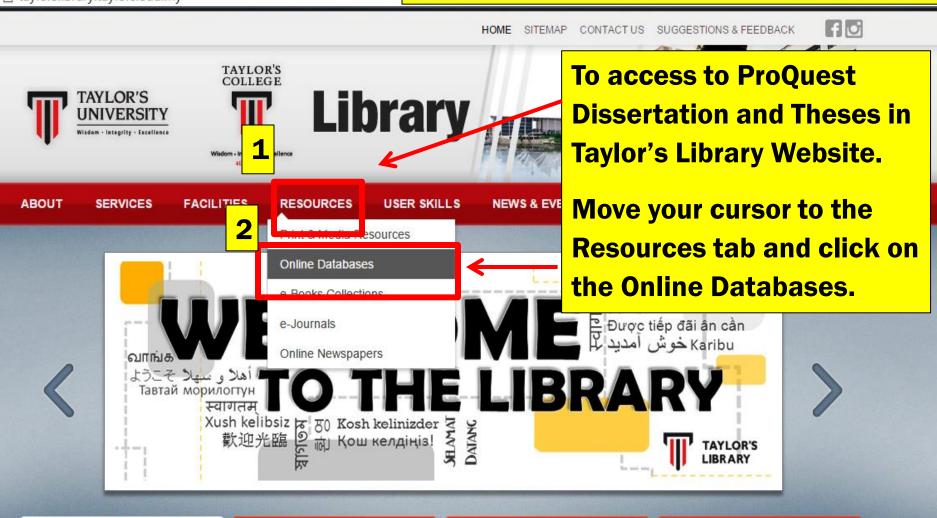
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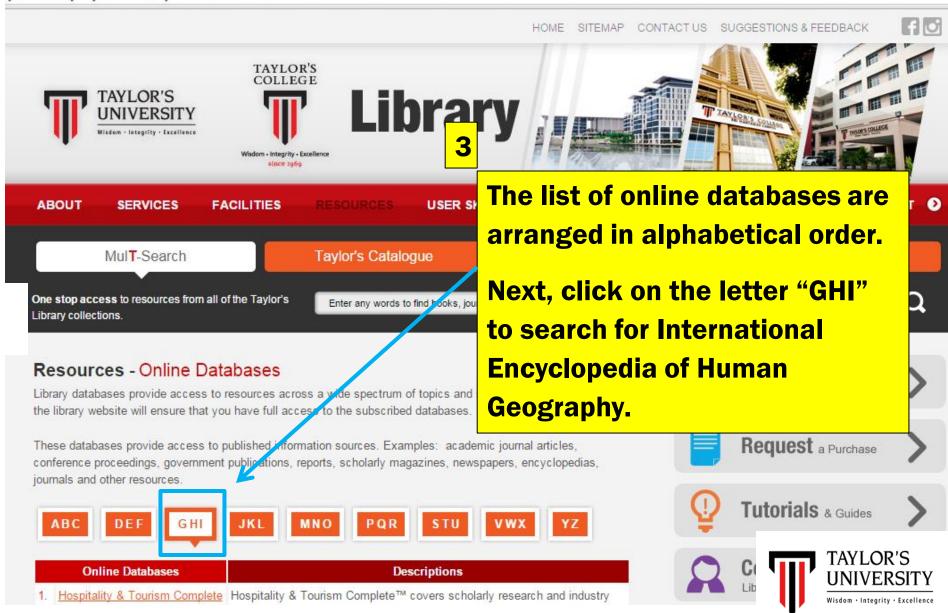
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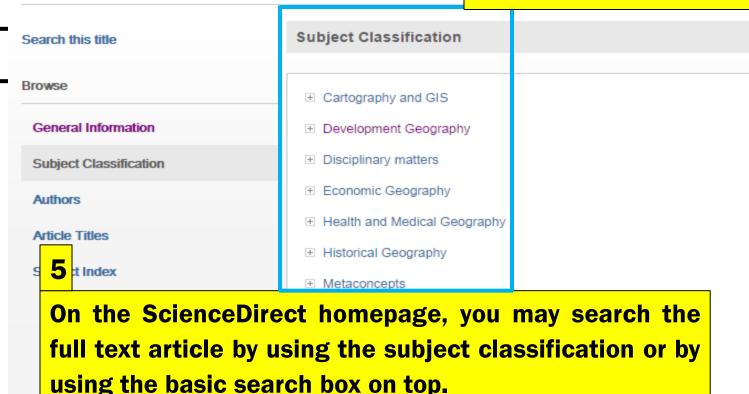
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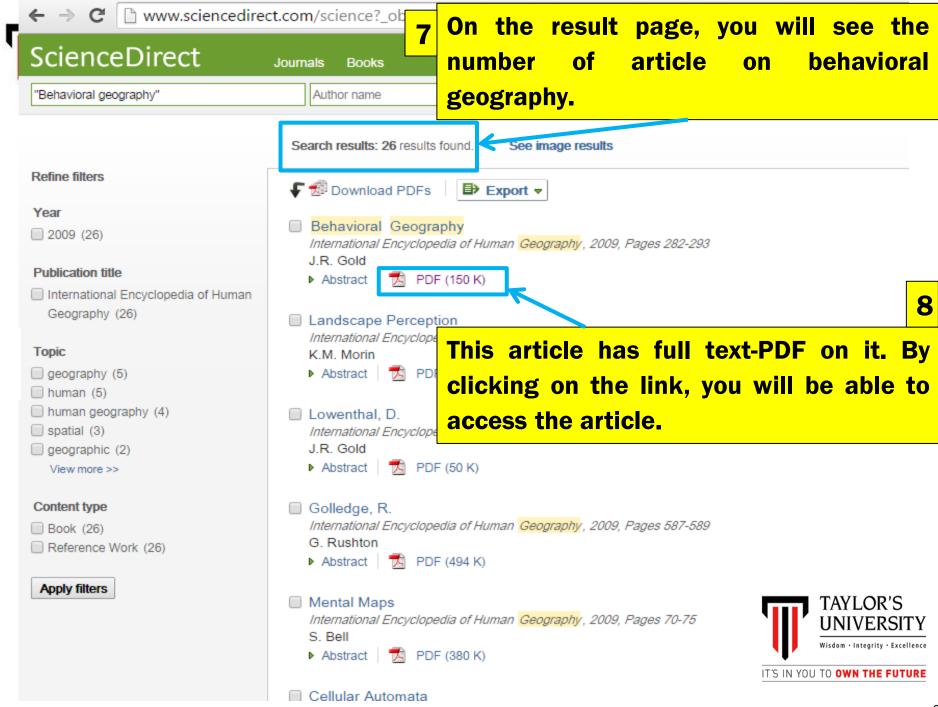
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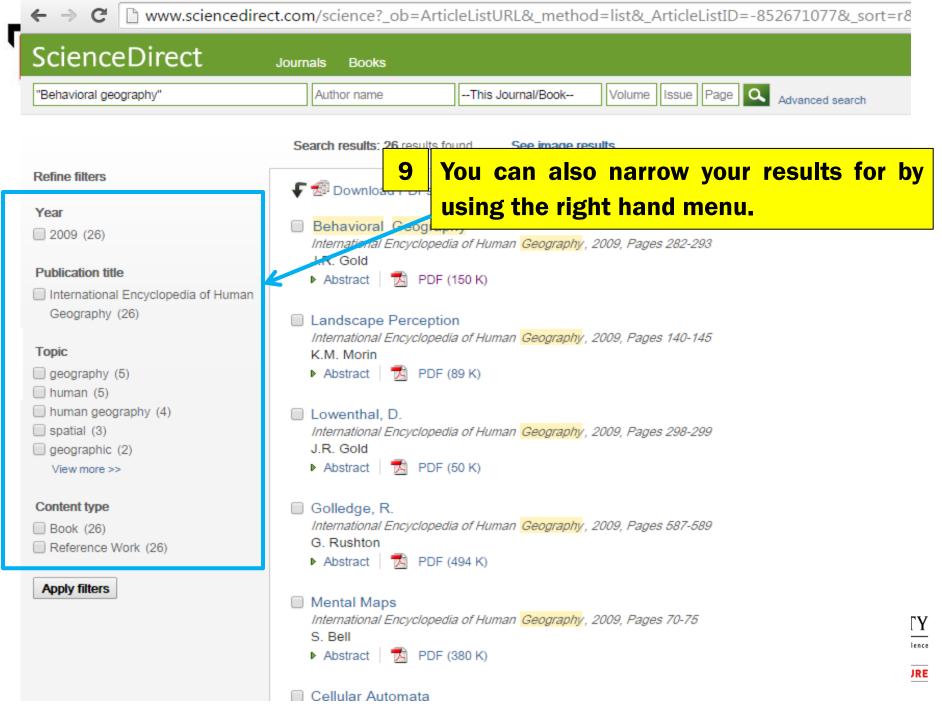


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#### **Behavioral Geography**

J. R. Gold, Oxford Brookes University, Oxford, UK
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#### Glossary

Cognitive Behavioralism An approach which holds that people's spatial behavior depends on how they understand (perceive, cognize) the world around them.

Cognitive Mapping The processes by which individuals acquire, store, and recall information about the places in the environments with which they come into contact.

**Cognitive Science** The branch of the science that studies the cognitive processes which underpin the acquisition, storage, and use of knowledge.

Ethology The comparative study of animal behavior.

Gated Community A residential community protected by physical barriers or symbolic means in order to exclude intruders.

**Humanism** A broad set of philosophies that focus on human reason, actions, and motives without reference to supernatural phenomena.

Natural Hazard An extreme event in the physical environment, of geophysical or biological origin, that is injurious to human life and destructive to property.

Satisficing Seeking to achieving a satisfactory

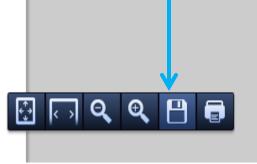
outcome, rather than the optimal.

**Territoriality** It refers to any form of behavior displayed by individuals and groups seeking to establish, maintain, or defend specific bounded portions of space.

from which to generate theories about how people make decisions and act in geographic space. Others looked to 'humanistic' approaches. Critical of what they saw as the reductionist tendencies stemming from scientific inquiry in general and mainstream psychology in particular, they more often sought to understand human imagination and experience holistically than wishing to make overt connections with behavior.

The second and more contemporary meaning of behavioral geography defines it sensu stricto as a subdiscipline of human geography. To some extent, this definition arose by default. Tensions between behavioral geography's 'cognitive science' and 'humanistic' streams eventually led to these two schools of thought parting company by the early 1980s. Henceforth, the term 'behavioral geography' described the work of those previously associated with the 'cognitive science' wing and was largely confined to North America, where it maintained an accepted but increasingly marginal presence in geographical research and in the undergraduate teaching curriculum.

At first glance the existence of these two overlapping definitions would seem of little real consequence, but the failure to differentiate between them lies at the heart of the prevailing historiographic misrepresentations of behavioral geography. By the 1990s at least, the prevailing view was, first, that behavioral geography was primarily a limited extension of spatial science and, second, that the limitations of its underlying positivist philosophy led to it being challenged and replaced by alternative approaches. By failing to recognize its true scope as a broad move-



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