

Using Databases

Databases are NOT search engines – limited collection of specific information

Search Engines find FREE, public information

Databases have limited access – You need permission, usually for a price

Using Databases

General Interest periodicals are not normally appropriate for an ACADEMIC paper

Writers need to use sources at or above the same level as their audience

Academic journals are peer edited – written by professionals in a field for other professionals in that field, NOT for a general audience

Using Databases

Most common form of database used in academic research is the periodical index

ACADEMIC periodical indexes emphasize academic journals for more credibility

VERY expensive and usually have limited access

Using Databases

Databases that emphasize general interest periodicals, that are intended and available at public libraries and K-12 schools have LITTLE use in academic research

You need ACADEMIC level tools and sources for an academic/professional paper

Using Databases

Databases available at CCC include:

WilsonWeb

Ebscohost – Academic Search Elite

FirstSearch

Passwords are needed for all of these

Using Databases

Each discipline has its own specialized databases

Access to these is usually very limited

CCC library has specialized databases for Psychology, Business, Humanities, Nursing

Using Databases

Information is more limited in a database – you won't get thousands of matches

But the information is more carefully selected and is almost always much, much more credible

Academic database material is almost always appropriate and credible for an academic paper

Using Databases

Databases expect specific search terms

You can search as subject, in the title, part of the abstract, found in the text, etc.

Always check the list of keywords/subjects on any good article you find in a database

Using Databases

Review your list of matches and focus on the ones that match your approach

Click on the link and read the abstract FIRST before saving or printing

Mark the items that look promising

Using Databases

You can email, print or save your list of checked items from your initial list

If not full-text, inter-library loan them

There are some limitations to inter-library loan, especially on articles

Always select pdf format if it's an option

Using Databases

No one database has everything

Always use multiple databases for thorough research

Don't JUST focus on full-text – newest articles are often embargoed for a period of time, but will be listed