

BASICS OF EFFECTIVE LIBRARY DATABASE SEARCHING

A library database is a collection of newspapers, magazines, multi-media, and academic journal articles. Databases are organized as either multi-subject (covering a wide variety of topics) or by subject (covering a single subject like Business or Psychology).

The database interface (or search screen) can vary from database to database but they all have a few things in common:

- An Advanced Search Screen [Use the advance search screen to get the most options]
- Search box [to enter terms]
- Ways to combine terms [AND, OR, NOT are the most frequent]
AND = search for all terms, OR = search for one/both of the terms, NOT = exclude search term
- Limit by Full Text = Only brings back full text articles [eliminates articles linked to in other databases, abstracts, and Interlibrary loan options]. If not finding articles on your topic, don't check this box
- Limit by Peer Review [peer review articles are reviewed by experts]. This will bring back academic articles only
- Limit by Year or Date Range [limits articles published between certain years]
- Other limiters – Most databases have other options for limiting search results. Explore what each database offers

Advanced Search Screen

Advanced Search [Search Tips](#) ★

Currently searching *Academic OneFile* with 34,623,911 articles updated as recently as October 5, 2009.

Search box

And Or Not

SEARCH Add a Row

Limit by

Limit Results:

- to documents with full text
- to peer-reviewed publications
- to document with images

By Document Type:

None selected

Abstract

Advertisement

Publication date(s):

Publication date(s): i.e., 2005 or 01/01/1990-12/31/2005

Limit by Full Text

Limit by Peer Review

Limit by Year or Date Range