

Online Library Database Use

The library's online database can be used for many different research purposes. The most important question to ask when navigating the database is, "For what purpose do I need this source?" With a clear idea of what you are looking for, navigation of the database can be amazingly easy.

Accessing the Database

The Yuba College Library provides many online databases capable of assisting students with their research. You can access these databases at

<https://yc.yccd.edu/academics/library/databases/>

Which database is right for you?

There is a wide variety of databases to explore, with databases ranging from country information to theatre performances or from news information to articles and eBooks. If you are looking for sources to use in your academic research paper, you might want to use EBSCO, or if you're looking for an opinion piece, you might want to use Opposing Viewpoints.

The library database page supplies an explanation of what you will find in each database. EBSCO and Oxford Reference have many different links that you can use to search by topic. If you choose either of the "Search all" links under EBSCO, it will include sources from all topics in the database.

Using Advanced Search

The library databases hold vast swaths of articles, videos, journals, and books. To find what you need, you will most likely need to use an advanced search. Each database has a different toolbar to work with, but most of them have some common search tools, such as the following:

- **Full-Text**
 - Searching by Full Text will make sure that you will have full access to the text.
- **Peer-Reviewed**
 - Peer-reviewed text will be more credible as it has been looked over by many other people in the relevant field.
- **Publication Date**
 - You can search specifically for older or for newer information.
- **Subject**
 - Searching by subject will help you find more relevant information.

Source-Searching Tips

Even with advanced search narrowing results down, there will likely still be lots of results to look through. Here are some tips to help navigate the ocean of information:

- Carefully choose your key words.
 - Include only those words that you know relate to your purpose
 - **Example:** When looking for the effects of separation anxiety in children search “separation anxiety children effects” and not “What are the effects of separation anxiety in children?”
 - Use a combination of broad words in your search will help ensure that you get a wide enough range of information that is relevant in your search.
- Find many sources that sound like they’ll be relevant.
 - If the name of a source sounds relevant, open it in another tab and continue searching. This can save time when looking over the sources later.
- Read the abstract.
 - An abstract is a condensed text that tells you what you’ll find in the source.
 - This can tell you early whether a source will work for you or not.
- Do some digging.
 - Like navigating Google results, the most relevant or useful sources won’t always be on the first or second page, so dig through the pages to find what works best for your purpose.