What is a library database?

A library database is an online resource that contains articles and information from print sources such as magazines, newspapers, journals, and reference books.

Databases are not "Internet" sources

As a college student, you must be able to find accurate information that is relevant to your assignments. Surfing the Internet certainly can be quick and easy. However, it is much too easy to find irrelevant, unsubstantiated, and just plain wrong information.

Searching the right database will give you the quality information you need. The material found on a database is likely to contain more reliable and more thoroughly researched information than material retrieved from an Internet search engine.

College of Marin's library databases are available via the Internet, but they are available only by subscription – a current MyCom account allows our students to use the databases. Most of the information you find in our databases cannot be found by searching Google or Yahoo.

Two Types of Databases:

Our library offers two types of databases:

1. Article Databases

An article database enables you to search through thousands (sometimes millions) of different magazines, journals and newspapers to find articles on a particular topic. Some of the articles you will find are Full Text, which means you can read (or print out) the entire article right there online. Other times the database will only provide you with an abstract and citation, which points to where you can find a print version of the article.

2. Reference Databases

Reference Databases provide reference information (facts, statistics, background information) from many different print sources. For example, we subscribe to Britannica Academic, which is an online version of the 29-volume set of the Encyclopedia Britannica print edition. Reference Databases are usually more subject-specific than the article databases.

The College of Marin Library Databases:

The following is a list of the databases offered at COM. You may access our databases online by visiting the MyCom Portal:

www.mycom.marin.edu/

Once you have logged on, click the "Library/Learning Resources" Tab. Scroll down to the section marked "Library Online Databases." There you will find access links to the databases listed below.

Please contact the Reference Desk if you have any difficulty accessing these databases.

- African American Experience is the definitive electronic research tool for African American history and culture from one of the most respected publishers in the field.
- Artstor is a digital image database where you can find thousands of high-resolution images from art, the physical sciences, and other courses that use visual images.
- Biography In Context provides access to biographies, bibliographies, full text journal, magazine, and newspaper articles, and selected web resources on more than 185,000 people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas.
- Books in Print provides the most comprehensive collection of information available today on the vast U.S. book publishing industry. Books in Print contains over 1.5 million active bindings of all varieties - adult, juvenile, popular, scholarly and reprints - with more than 77,000 subject headings by which to search.
- Britannica Online includes the complete encyclopedia, as well as Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary and the Britannica Book of the Year.
- Consumer Health Complete is a full-text database that provides content covering all areas of health and wellness from mainstream medicine to the many perspectives of complementary, holistic, and integrated medicine.
- CountryWatch.com provides up-to-date information and news on the countries of the world.
- CQ Researcher contains in-depth articles on current and controversial issues.
- Environment Complete offers in-depth coverage on a wide range of environmental issues.
Library Databases

An Introduction to Digital Resources at the College of Marin Library

2011 - 2012

College of Marin Library
Kentfield, CA 94904
415-485-9475
askthelibrary@marin.edu

www.marin.edu/lrc

- **Expanded Academic ASAP Infotrac**
  From arts and the humanities to social sciences, science and technology, this database meets research needs across all academic disciplines. Access scholarly journals, news magazines, and newspapers — many with full text and images.


- **History Study Center** is an online resource providing a vast collection of digitized primary and secondary sources for the study of history.

- **LISTA** is a bibliographic database that provides coverage on subjects such as librarianship, classification, cataloging, bibliometrics, online information retrieval, information management and more. LISTA indexes nearly 600 periodicals plus books, research reports, and proceedings.

- **Literature Resource Center** provides access to biographies, bibliographies, and critical analyses of authors from every age and literary discipline. This database covers more than 120,000 novelists, poets, essayists, journalists, and other writers, with in-depth coverage of 2,500 of the most studied authors.

- **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** provides a complete one-stop source for information on social issues. Access viewpoint articles, topic overviews, statistics, primary documents, links to websites, and full-text magazine and newspaper articles.

- **Oxford Art Online** is a comprehensive art information resource with access to 45,000 articles, 500,000 biographical citations, 86,000 cross-references, 720,000 index entries, and images from the Bridgeman Art Library and other external image links.

- **Oxford Reference Online** provides over 100 dictionary (English & Bilingual), language reference, and authoritative subject reference titles covering the full academic spectrum. Over 50,000 in-depth articles from the acclaimed Oxford Companion series and all 20,000 quotations from the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations are available.


- **Science Full Text Select** database includes all the full text content from Wilson's acclaimed Applied Science & Technology Full Text, Biological & Agricultural Index Plus, and General Science Full Text.

**Need more help?**

Do not hesitate to contact the reference librarian at College of Marin. We are here to help you find the information you need. Drop by or telephone us at the number listed below.

*********

College of Marin Library
Kentfield, CA 94904
415-485-9475
askthelibrary@marin.edu