

Using Online Databases for Research

When researching a topic, a valuable resource at UM-Helena is the wide selection of magazine and journal articles available in online databases. These are the same articles you see in print magazines and journals – Psychology Today, Time, Newsweek, etc. – only you are accessing them in electronic (digital) format from a website.

Access these databases from the UM-Helena website <http://umhelen.edu> at
Current Students . . . Library . . . Online Databases

Online Databases

These databases are available from any campus computer.

Off-campus access is available to current students, faculty and staff of UM – Helena.

Go to the [databases descriptions](#) for a complete listing and description of all databases.

Check the [Full-text Journal Finder](#) to see if a journal is in one of these databases.

<p>General Expanded Academic Academic Search Premier General Reference Center Taylor & Francis E-journals Academic OneFile InfoTrac OneFile</p> <p>Montana InfoTrac Portal (on campus only)</p>	<p>Science ScienceDirect SpringerLink Nature E-journals Environment Complete Annual Reviews Wiley InterScience Journals CAB Direct (Abstracts only)</p>	<p>Business Business Source Premier Business & Company ASAP Regional Business News Business & Company Resource Ctr Emerald E-journals</p>
<p>Arts & Humanities JStor Arts & Sciences Early English Books Online Biography Resource Center ARTstor</p>	<p>Nursing CINAHL with Full text CINAHL NetAnatomy Health Reference Center Health Wellness Resource Center</p>	<p>History & Public Affairs Opposing Viewpoints Resource CQ Electronic Library Archive of Americana Historical Statistics of the U.S.</p>
<p>Trades Auto Repair Reference Center Small Engine Repair Alldata (on campus only)</p>	<p>Career Peterson's Testing & Education Vocational & Career Collection</p>	<p>Computer Computer Database</p>

HOW TO SEARCH:

- **Select the database** that best matches the topic you are researching – health, business, computers, academic subjects, general or popular topics, etc. Your instructor or the librarian may be able to help you select.
- **Limit your results** to full-text.
- **Use terms** (words or phrases) that describe your topic. Be precise, not wordy
 - **Use synonyms** and variant forms of your terms
 - Example: cell phones OR wireless phones
 - Example: genetic OR familial OR hereditary
 - **Use phrases**
 - Example: “Loch Ness Monster”
 - **Use Boolean operators** (AND, OR, NOT)
 - (Bigfoot OR Sasquatch) AND Alaska
- **Select** either a keyword or a subject search
 - **Keyword searching** looks for your terms anywhere in the article. This is a less precise, but easier way to search.
 - **Subject searching** looks for headings where articles on the same topic are grouped together. Headings may further group articles into more specific subdivisions.
- **Browse articles** and save relevant ones to a marked list (InfoTrac) or folder (EbscoHost).

VIEWING YOUR RESULTS:

- **Citation** format only describes where and when the article was published.
- **Abstract** format includes the citation and an abstract, or brief summary, of the article.
- **Full-text** indicates that the *complete* article can be viewed/printed, either in HTML (text) or PDF format.
 - **Text** format contains the text of the article and may contain some graphics.
 - **PDF** format is a more compact page that will contain the pictures and images of the original article.
 - **Adobe Acrobat Reader** software is needed to read a PDF file. All Library computers have Adobe, as do most of the computers on campus. This is usually the preferred way to view a journal article online.

SAVING WHAT YOU HAVE FOUND:

- **Print** articles. If not viewing the pdf version, be sure to select the print display format in most databases before printing.
- **Save** articles to a removeable device (thumb drive).
- **Email** full articles or citations to yourself.
- **Format** citations in APA, MLA, Turabian, or other bibliographic style.

USING DATABASES FROM HOME:

Students, faculty & staff may connect to these journal databases from any off-campus location. When you select a database to search, you will be prompted to enter your UM-Helena ID number.