

Library Instruction 2

Lesson F

Searching Databases for Information

Database is defined as a comprehensive collection of related data organized for quick access, generally in a computer. Databases contain many kinds of information. Types of information may include:

- books and media
- magazine and newspaper articles
- World Wide Web pages.

This lesson simulates a search for information for a term paper or assignment using computerized or electronic sources. As you are searching the various databases, you will be expected to read the HELP screens to assist you in answering the questions. You are also encouraged to spend some time exploring the features of each database, even if you are not required to do so by the questions in this exercise. Most of the Hartnell College Library's databases can be accessed from off-campus. Ask at the Reference Desk for a handout on how to do this.

All of the following databases are accessed from the Hartnell College Library's Web page: <http://www.hartnell.edu/library/>

ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOG (OPAC)

This assignment is an expansion of Lesson 3: Hartnell College Library's Online Public Access Catalog. It will help you with this assignment.

As you remember, Hartnell College Library uses the WebVoyage library computer system. The OPAC includes information about the **circulating books**, the **reference books**, the **reserve collection**, and the **magazine list**. It also has records for the **media** (nonprint) materials, including videos, audiocassettes, computer software, and electronic books, in the Library. The records include information about each item, including whether it is checked out and when it's due back.

You can search for these books and media by **author**, **title**, **subject**, and **keyword**.

The Hartnell Online Catalog is available through Hartnell College Library's web page. You can search the catalog from home, work, and even when the library is closed.

The "Help" button offers detailed information about searching the OPAC. Always read the **instructions on each screen** carefully. When the library is open, reference librarians are available to assist you.

EBSCOHOST ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER

Contains more than 4,650 full text periodicals, including more than 3,600 peer-reviewed publications. EBSCOhost also abstracts and indexes over 8,200 periodicals. EBSCOhost is also available through Hartnell College Library's web page. Remember to read the instructions on the screen. (EBSCOhost also provides access to professional nursing journals and general health periodicals.)

CQ RESEARCHER

Contains balanced, in-depth coverage of current and controversial topics. It is available through the Library's web page. It is also available in print in the Reference Department. The call number is REF H35 .E35.

PROQUEST NEWSPAPERS

Provides access to full-text articles in the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *Washington Post*.

GALENET LITERATURE DATABASES

Includes the *Literature Resource Center (LRC)* and *Scribner Writers Series*, which provide biographical, bibliographical, and critical content covering authors from all time periods writing fiction, non-fiction, poetry and drama.

ACCESSSCIENCE

A general science database that includes the McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science and Technology.

COUNTRY WATCH

Provides up-to-date news and information on the recognized countries of the world.

CULTUREGRAMS

Information about world cultures.

RAND CALIFORNIA

Provides access to nearly 100 statistical databases dealing with California, including demographics, education, politics, crime, and education.

OTHER LIBRARIES

If Hartnell Library does not have a particular magazine or book that you need for your research, you may be able to find this information at another library in the area. Libraries in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties have formed a cooperative group called the **MOnterey Bay Area Cooperative Library System or MOBAC.**

- **California Libraries Catalog**, is an online catalog of books and other materials owned by academic, public, and special libraries in California. You can search by author, title, subject, or keyword, and can limit your search by language, type of material, and geographic region (such the Monterey Bay area). This database is available through Hartnell College Library's web page.
- **Interlibrary Loan**, or **ILL**, is a method of borrowing materials from other libraries. You must fill out a form to request these materials. It takes at least two weeks to complete this process.

NAME: _____

**Lesson F: Searching Databases for Information
Assignment**

OPAC or ONLINE PUBLIC ACCESS CATALOG

1. Using the "Basic Search" screen, search for books in the **OPAC** on the *subject* of **slavery California**.
 - a. How many books does the Hartnell Library have on this subject? _____
 - b. What is the call number of the first book listed? _____
 - c. Where in the library is this located? First floor or second floor (Circle One).
 - d. List one other subject heading for this book. _____
 - e. What is the status of this book? _____
 - f. Who is the author? _____
 - g. Where was this book published? _____
 - h. When was this book published? _____
 - i. What is the title of the book? _____

2. Using the "Basic Search" screen, do a *keyword* search for the phrase "**California slavery**" *in quotation marks*.
 - a. How many "hits" do you get? _____
 - b. Do another *keyword* search of just the words **+California +slavery**. How many titles do you get? _____
 - c. Is this different than the subject search you did in question 1? _____
 - d. If yes, explain the difference? _____

EBSCOHOST

Click on the EBSCOhost link on the Library's Web page, then choose EBSCOhost Web. Click on the **Academic Search Premier** link to choose this database for searching.

3. Using the "Advanced Search" screen, search for **learning styles and college students**. (Please note that searches from this screen are *keyword* searches).
 - a. How many articles were retrieved? _____
 - b. Look at the article that begins "Factors affecting college students' learning styles." Who are the authors? _____
 - c. How many pages long is the article? _____

4. Again using the "Advanced Search" screen, search for **auditory learners** and *limit* it to *full text*.
 - a. What is the title of the first article? _____

 - b. Who is the author? _____
 - c. What is the title of the periodical or source? _____
 - d. What is the date of the periodical? _____
 - e. Using the Hartnell College Library handout, "Information Literacy 3: How to Cite Information Using MLA Format," write a bibliographic citation for this article.

CQ RESEARCHER – ONLINE

5. Go to *CQ Researcher* from the Library's Web page. Select the "Advanced Search" option on the left-hand menu, then search for the phrase "social promotion" (don't forget the *quotation marks*).
 - a. How many issues contained information on this topic? _____
 - b. What is the title of the article dated 05/14/99? _____
 - c. Who is the author? _____
 - d. What is the question being debated in the Pro/Con section?

 - e. Read the abstract of the article, and list the two trends sweeping U.S. public schools.

 - f. What are two other ways to search for information in the CQ Researcher database?

PROQUEST NEWSPAPERS

6. Go to *ProQuest Newspapers* from the Library's Web page. Using the "Advanced Search" screen, search for **civil liberties and terrorism**.
 - a. How many articles were retrieved? _____
 - b. What is the title of one article addressing the subject of your search?

 - c. What is the name of the newspaper in which this article is found?

 - d. What is the date, start page, and edition of the article?

 - e. Who is the author of the article? _____
 - f. What is the text word count for this article?

7. Click on "More Search Options" on the Advanced Search Page. What are two additional search options?

GALENET – LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTER

8. Go to Galenet Databases from the Library's Web page. Choose **Literature Resource Center**, and search for the author **William Faulkner**. From the result list, select the author whose dates are 1897-1962.
 - a. How many biographies does this database contain for this author? _____
 - b. Click on the "Literary Criticism" tab at the top of the page. How many works of criticism are listed? _____
 - c. Select one work of criticism and write an **MLA** format bibliographic citation for it: (For help in citing the Galenet Literature Resource Center database see: http://www.galegroup.com/customer_service/technical_information/citing.htm)

 - d. What do you get when you select the "Additional Resources" tab?

ACCESSSCIENCE

9. Go to AccessScience from the Library's Web page. In the "Search" box, search for the word "evolution."
- How many entries were retrieved? _____
 - Click on the "Search Options" link next to the search box on the home page. What are the three different ways to search? _____

10. Now find a biographical article about Stephen Jay Gould (there may be several ways to do this search). What is *one* of his fields of expertise? _____

COUNTRY WATCH

11. Select **Country Watch** from the Library's Web page. Using the "Shortcut to Country Review" menu on the Country Watch home page, choose one country that interests you, and answer the following questions using the information on the main page for this country:
- What is the name of the country? _____
 - In what region of the world can this country be found? _____
 - What is the capital? _____
 - What is the population? _____
 - Using a link on the left side of the page, find a list of government officials. What is the title and name of the person at the top of the list?

 - Again using a link on the main page, state an interesting fact about cultural etiquette in this country.

 - What is one environmental issue facing this country?

CULTUREGRAMS

12. Access CultureGrams using the link on the Library's home page. Using the same country that you chose in the previous question, answer the following:
- What is one *general attitude* in this country?

b. What are the main foods in the diet of this country?

RAND CALIFORNIA

13. Go to RAND California from the Library's Web page (at the bottom). Choose "Statistics", then "Population and Demographics." Then choose "California County Population by Race/Ethnicity and Age Group." You will then need to make some choices from the Race/Gender, Age Group, Geographic Area, and Time Period menus in order to answer the next question.

a. What was the number of Hispanic males (of any race), ages 20-24, in Monterey County in 1998? _____

b. In addition to "Population and Demographics", what are two other statistical database categories that you can search on the RAND California Web site?

13. Comments about this lesson.
