

WRITING 122 - LIBRARY RESOURCES FOR ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAYS

RESEARCH DATABASES – Use these to locate credible sources of information.

The LCC Library subscribes to over 100 research databases. Most of the databases listed below provide articles from **magazines, newspapers, and journals**, and other sources like encyclopedias and reference books.

To access the research databases:

1. Click on the **Databases** link on the library home page at: www.lcc.edu/library.
2. Click on a letter of the alphabet with which a database title begins. Or click on the **Subjects** drop-down menu to select databases by subject.
3. Choose a database and click on the title link.
4. **Note:** to connect to the databases from off campus you must enter your Technology User ID and password.



Recommended Research Databases:

- **Academic OneFile** – Peer-reviewed, full-text articles from the world's leading journals and reference sources. Extensive coverage of the sciences, including psychology.
- **CQ Researcher** – This source is noted for its in-depth, unbiased coverage of social issues including health, social trends, criminal justice, education, the environment, technology, and the economy. The single-themed reports are published weekly. Useful pro/con statements from representatives of opposing positions.
- **Ethnic NewsWatch** – Magazine, newspaper, and journal articles from ethnic, minority and native press publications. Designed to provide the "other side of the story."
- **Expanded Academic ASAP** – Useful for scholarly research in many disciplines including arts, humanities, social sciences, science, and technology.
- **Issues & Controversies** – Offers in-depth articles that explore more than 800 hot topics in business, politics, government, education, and popular culture. Useful for research papers and debate preparation.
- **MultiSearch** – Find articles, books and multimedia from the Catalog & Research Databases all at once.
- **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** – Provides information about "hot social issues" from a variety of resources: pro and con viewpoint articles, reference resources, magazines, academic journals, and newspapers, primary source documents, government and organizational statistics, multimedia, and web sites.
- **ProQuest Central** – A large interdisciplinary research database covering over 160 subject areas. An excellent source for peer-reviewed scholarly resources.
- **SIRS Knowledge Source** – Provides articles about current social issues, and a helpful list of hot topics.
- **Ulrichsweb.com** – Publishing information and reviews of magazines, newspapers, and journals. Includes whether a journal is peer reviewed / refereed.
- **WilsonSelect Plus** – Provides articles from over 800 magazines and scholarly / professional journals.

FINDING FULL-TEXT ARTICLES

Sometimes a database will not have access to the full text of an article. When this happens try the [Full-Text Options](#) or [Link to Full Text](#) link to see if the article is available in another database. Ask the librarian for other ideas for locating full-text articles.

FINDING BOOKS AND MORE – LIBRARY CATALOG

The Library Catalog allows you to search for:

Books / eBooks
Periodicals

Videos / DVDs / CDs
Government Documents

Course Reserves
Audiobooks / eAudiobooks **Websites**

To get started, click on the **Library Catalog** link on the library homepage.

Example Search in the Catalog:



GOOGLE SCHOLAR -- <http://scholar.google.com/>



Google Scholar will search across many disciplines for scholarly articles, theses, books, abstracts or court opinions from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites. Complete documents may be located on the web or possibly through the library.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING INFORMATION – print and online

<p>Authority</p> <p>Idea:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who is providing the information? What are the credentials of the author? • Try Googling the authors to find information about them and what else they have published, or search the author in a major database like Academic OneFile or ProQuest Central to review other sources they have authored. • Can the organization, publisher, or author be contacted? • What type of website is it? (.com .edu .org .gov .net .mil) What does this tell you?
<p>Accuracy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the content accurate? How can you tell? • Are the sources of information listed in a bibliography or reference list so that you can verify the data?
<p>Objectivity</p> <p>Ideas:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the content opinion or substantiated facts? • Does the author, organization, or publication promote a specific viewpoint? • Check the “About Us” section on a web site. • Use the Encyclopedia of Associations located in the Gale Directory Library database to find out information about an organization. • Use the Ulrichsweb.com library database to find out about the magazine or journal.
<p>Currency</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there dates indicating when the information was published, copyrighted or updated? • Is the material kept current and is it current enough for your topic?

STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE SEARCH RESULTS

- Read and use **Help** information provided by the database.
- Use **Subjects** to find articles *about* the subject and **Keywords** to find articles that *have the words* somewhere in the document.
- Use **Boolean** operators. AND (include all words), OR (include any of the words), NOT (exclude the word)
- Use a **Wildcard** to search variations of a word. Many databases use an asterisk (*).
- Use **Phrase** searching. When searching for an exact phrase put the words within quotations (“your phrase”).

MLA CITATION HELP

View examples of MLA citations for print, online and media sources, as well as in-text citation. From the library home page click on **Research Help > Citing Sources: MLA and APA** or go to <http://www.lcc.edu/library/research-help/citation/>