FINDING TOOLS

ARTICLE DATABASES
An article database takes information from periodicals (magazines, newspapers, and journals) and makes it searchable. Sometimes you’ll get references to articles (the author, article title, periodical title, page numbers, etc.) and sometimes you’ll get the full text of the article.

There are different types of article databases. Some are general databases, meaning they cover a wide range of subjects; an example is Academic Search Premier. Databases such as Art Full Text, Criminal Justice Abstracts, Education FullText, and MEDLINE are subject focused. If you aren’t sure where to look, Academic Search Premier is a great place to start. However, it’s best if you can find a database that focuses on your topic area.

Many times, it is a good idea to use both general and subject specific databases. If you are doing a paper on alternative health treatments for Type I diabetics, it would be a good idea to use a general database (Academic Search Premier) plus a variety of health-related databases, such as Alt-Health Watch (includes both popular and scholarly articles on alternative health care topics), MEDLINE (includes scholarly articles from all fields of medicine), CINAHL:Nursing and Allied Health (includes popular and scholarly articles in nursing, allied health, biomedical and consumer health literature), and Health Source: Nursing/Academic Edition (includes scholarly full text articles in the health professions).

Although we call them “article databases”, some databases will have other types of information in addition to periodical articles. For example, some include entries from reference books (e.g., dictionaries and encyclopedias), collections of images, pamphlets or brochures, or specific reports, such as SEC filings or papers presented at conferences. It is important to look at the type of information covered in a particular database before you search.

Unlike the library catalog, which can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection, article databases are available only to individuals affiliated with the university. On campus, anyone can access databases when they are in the library. However, if you want to use databases from home, you must use your Weber user name and password (the one you use to login to the student portal).
Another way to access article databases is through Pioneer. Pioneer is Utah’s Online Library of electronic resources and provides statewide access to newspaper, magazine, professional journal articles, encyclopedias, video, photographs, maps, charts, and graphics. Pioneer serves Utah’s public schools and academic institutions, as well as patrons of public libraries. There are three subsets of Pioneer resources, and http://pioneer-library.org/ will provide access to all three. These are:

- Academic Pioneer, which is geared toward college students
- K-12 Pioneer, which is intended for use by primary and secondary school students and teachers (http://pioneer.uen.org/k12/)
- Preschool Pioneer, for children ages 3-6 (http://preschool.uen.org/)

The following videos will be helpful in learning how to use article databases:

- Databases & The Electronic Journals Tool: http://library.weber.edu/il/libs1704/textbook/videos/ElectronicJournals.html This video walks you through the process of choosing a database for your topic and how to use the Electronic Journals tool to find a specific article if you know the title of the periodical in which the article is found.

- Using Academic Search Premier: http://library.weber.edu/il/libs1704/textbook/videos/AcademicSearchPremier.html This video takes you through a search using Academic Search Premier.

- If you are writing a paper on a controversial or current interest topic, this video will teach you how to use CQ Researcher: http://library.weber.edu/il/libs1704/TextBook/videos/CQResearcher.html

- For those using databases to look for ebooks, this video covers how to download eBooks to computers and devices: http://library.weber.edu/il/libs1704/textbook/videos/EBSCOeBooks.html