

Activity Title: Database Exploration

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to

- Locate databases on the library's website
- Describe the different features and subject areas of several different databases

Estimated Time: 30 minutes

Resources:

- Database exploration worksheet (sample included)

Summary: This activity can be done either in person or remotely, with students working in breakout rooms. This exercise gives students a chance to familiarize themselves with the article databases available through the library. Students work in small groups to choose three databases they are unfamiliar with and then answer questions about the content and features of each one.

This activity can pair well with the early phases of a class research project, particularly if students are already working in groups and can use it to choose databases that might be helpful for their topic.

Instructions:

- Explain to students the difference between a database name (e.g., APA PsycInfo) and a vendor name (EBSCOhost).
- Break students into small groups and assign them to complete the following worksheet (or one similar to it), working together on each database rather than breaking up the work:

Names: _____ Date: _____

Database Exploration

Pick three (**3**) databases to explore. Find ones that no one in the group has used before and **work as a group on *each* database**. Try clicking on the “Find Databases” button on the library homepage, then explore databases by subject or alphabetical listing and click on a database name with which you are unfamiliar.

For **EACH** database answer the following questions ***as a group***:

1. Database Name: _____

a. What subjects does this database cover? (e.g. multiple subjects, specific subject like Biology, specific types of data, etc.)

b. What types of publications are indexed in this database? (e.g. scholarly journals, images, books, data, newspaper articles, magazine articles, theses/dissertations, etc.)

c. Does the database have any unique features? (e.g. special ways to limit your search, special tools, automatic citation features, etc.)

d. What types of research questions could be answered using this database? What majors might be interested in using this database?

2. Database Name: _____

a. What subjects does this database cover? (e.g. multiple subjects, specific subject like Biology, specific types of data, etc.)

b. What types of publications are indexed in this database? (e.g. scholarly journals, images, books, data, newspaper articles, magazine articles, theses/dissertations, etc.)

c. Does the database have any unique features? (e.g. special ways to limit your search, special tools, automatic citation features, etc.)

d. What types of research questions could be answered using this database? What majors might be interested in using this database?

3. Database Name: _____

a. What subjects does this database cover? (e.g. multiple subjects, specific subject like Biology, specific types of data, etc.)

b. What types of publications are indexed in this database? (e.g. scholarly journals, images, books, data, newspaper articles, magazine articles, theses/dissertations, etc.)

c. Does the database have any unique features? (e.g. special ways to limit your search, special tools, automatic citation features, etc.)

d. What types of research questions could be answered using this database? What majors might be interested in using this database?
