

Beginners' Guide to Online Databases

from the ACM Library

What are databases?



- Library Online Databases are **collections** of digital documents or records which can include:
 - articles from magazines, scholarly or scientific journals, or newspapers
 - articles in reference books, reports, government publications
 - Statistics and specialized data
 - Complete books in digital format (ebooks)
 - Videos
- These collections can be searched for reliable information in writing research papers, preparing for presentations, and other research assignments.

Types of Library Databases

- ACM Library offers a variety of databases
 - Articles (from magazines, newspapers, scholarly journals, etc.)
 - Online Reference Works
 - Collections of Ebooks
 - Specialized combinations

Articles Databases



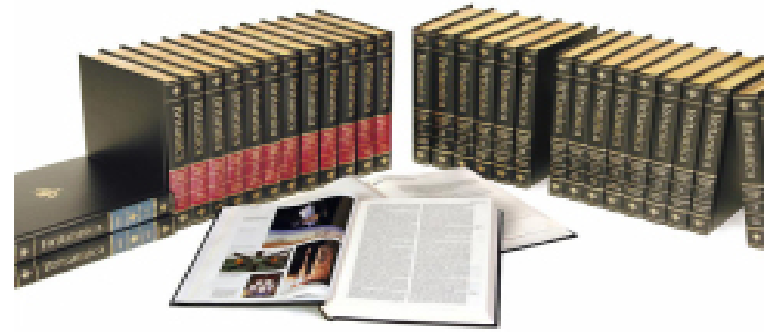
- Databases of articles from periodicals: magazines, scholarly journals, newspapers, etc.

Examples: **Academic Search Premier (EBSCO)**

Psychology Journals (ProQuest)

- The **results of searches** of these kinds of databases include references to and abstracts (summaries) of specific articles from various periodicals
- **NOTE:** The **full-text of the articles** may or may **not** be available (depending on copyright restrictions, date/time restrictions, etc.)

Reference Databases



- Reference book databases are collections of the articles within encyclopedias, dictionaries, handbooks, etc. Online versions allow searching within each publication to locate specific information.
- Examples: **Britannica Online**
Credo Reference (a collection of many reference sources)

Ebook Collection Databases

ACM Library allows users to browse available ebook collections.

- These are collections of digital versions of printed books. Most of these are **non-fiction** books that can be used for research.
- You can **browse, read, print out, or save sections** of these books from your device screen or you can download them to a reader device to use them for a limited time period. Each publisher has specific instructions.
- Individual ebook titles are included in searches of the **ACM Online Library Catalog**. A link to the ebook content appears in the catalog record.
- Example: Ebook Collection (EBSCO)

Specialty Databases

ACM subscribes to several databases that do not fit in the above categories:

- Multi-format Information Databases:

Examples:

- **Opposing Viewpoints** (Gale) which includes articles from reference works, periodicals, as well as viewpoint essays, primary sources, statistics, etc.
- **Testing and Education Reference Center** (Gale) which includes career information, practice tests, etc.

- Databases of videos:

- Example: **Films on Demand** which provides streaming videos not available on the free web

Subject-specific / Multidisciplines

- Several databases are limited to publications according to **subject**.
 - There are databases limited to health, education, criminal justice, psychology, sociology, etc.
- There are also a few multidisciplinary databases,
 - **Opposing Viewpoints**
 - **Academic Search.**

How to find Library databases?

- To access the databases that the ACM Library subscribes to, follow this direct link to an [alphabetical list](#) of databases. (If you are searching from off-campus you will need to log in with your ACM credentials.)
- Click here for a [subject guide to the databases](#) .
- Or...

Or, look for a link on the ACM Library web page

The screenshot shows the Allegany College of Maryland Library System website. The header includes the college logo and name, along with navigation links for Language, Branch, and Large Text. Below the header, there are sections for Contact Information, Information Literacy Tutorials, and Fall 2019 schedules for Cumberland and Bedford campuses. A search bar is located in the center, and a sidebar on the right contains links for Databases, Recommended Web Sites, Special Collections, Research Guides, Government Information, and Online Help. The 'Online Research Databases' section is circled in red, and a red arrow points from the text 'Or, look for a link on the ACM Library web page' to the 'Access to Research Databases' link within this section.

Language - Branch - Large Text Log In

ALLEGANY COLLEGE of MARYLAND ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND LIBRARY SYSTEM

Library Info - Search - My Account - Help -

Contact Information

- Cumberland Main Desk: 301-780-5289
- Bedford: 810-852-9528 Ext. 6206

Information Literacy Tutorials

- CREDO
- Credo instructs a set of online tutorials and quizzes covering information literacy.

Cumberland Fall 2019

- July 27 - Aug. 18
Mon-Fri. 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
- Aug. 19 - Dec. 8
Mon-Thu. 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
Saturday 11:00 AM-5:00 PM
Sunday CLOSED
- Saturdays until after Labor Day - CLOSED
- Sept. 2
Labor Day CLOSED
- Fall Break
Oct. 12-15
Sat-Sun. CLOSED
Mon-Tues. 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
- Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 27-Dec. 1
Wed. 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
Thurs-Sun. CLOSED

Bedford Fall 2019

- Aug. 19 - Dec. 8
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
Wednesday 10:00 AM-2:00 PM
Friday 8:00 AM-2:00 PM
Weekends CLOSED
- CLOSED any day classes are not in session:
Labor Day, Sept. 2
Fall Break, Oct. 12-15
Thanksgiving Break, Nov. 28-29

Online Research Databases

- [Access to Research Databases](#)

Facebook

- Like us on Facebook

Choosing databases:

- The first step in your research process is deciding which databases are the ones that will give you the best results for the topic you are researching. Depending on your topic, you might need to search several databases to cover your topic. A librarian can help to suggest specific databases, so don't hesitate to ask for assistance.
- **NOTE:** If you access a database from off-campus you might need to authenticate your status as an ACM student by logging in with your ACM credentials the same that you use for Self-Service or Brightspace.
- **Reminder:** the Full-text of the article may or may not be available. See section below on full-text availability.

Choosing Databases Video

Click here for a [video](#) on choosing databases from Credo Instruct

Searching Online Databases: Tips

- Unlike Google, databases all require using combinations of **keywords** or terms to get results...They do **NOT** work with natural language questions.
 - For example, a user **cannot** type in “show me research studies on the dangers of vaping” and expect a good result.
- If you are searching a topic you don't know much about, take the time to do **background research** to gather some **relevant key words**.
 - Use an encyclopedia article or dictionary to determine possible terms
 - Use keywords like vaping, "e-cigarettes", "electronic cigarettes" etc.

Example: Result List

This the first page of results from a search on vaping in the Academic Search database from EBSCO

keyword

Note number of results (items matching "vaping")

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier interface. At the top, the search bar contains the keyword "vaping" and a "Search" button. The search results are displayed in a list format. The first result is titled "1. Vaping Viewpoints: A Multi-Segment Understanding of E-Cigarette Risk Perceptions." and is from the *Journal of Consumer Affairs*. The second result is titled "2. Electronic cigarette power affects count concentration and particle size distribution of vaping aerosol." and is from *PLoS ONE*. Below the text results, there is a section for "Associated Press Video" with a row of video thumbnails and their durations. On the left side, there is a "Refine Results" sidebar with various filters such as "Boolean/Phrase", "Expanders", "Limit To", "Source Types", and "Publication Date". A red circle highlights the text "Search Results: 1 - 10 of 3,477" in the top right area of the results section. Red arrows point from the text boxes on the left to the search bar and the result count.

Database search tips, pt.2

- Databases allow you to manipulate the result lists
 - by date
 - by language
 - by narrowing topics
 - Look for subject terms or descriptors in relevant results.
- Advanced searches allow even more search features
 - Specific authors
 - Specific publications
 - Boolean operators
- Be sure to click on the help feature or ask for help from a librarian.

Using Keywords Tutorial

- Here is a [tutorial on choosing and using key words](#) from Credo Instruct.

Database Search Tips, pt. 3

- Note other features to help organize and use your results:
 - Print or email items for later use
 - Use folders to save relevant records
 - Be sure to keep track of author, title, dates, etc. so you can cite later
 - Look for a “Cite this” feature **BUT** double check with citing rules before copying directly...many are incorrect

Example Database Search pt.2

Sample record from search on vaping

Click links to read full-text

Use tools to print, email, cite, etc.

The screenshot shows a search result page on EBSCOhost. The search term 'vaping' is entered in the search bar, and the results list shows one result: 'Vaping Viewpoints: A Multi-Segment Understanding of E-Cigarette Risk Perceptions.' The page includes a navigation menu at the top, a search bar, and a sidebar with various tools. Red arrows point from text boxes on the left to specific elements on the page: one points to the search bar, another to the 'HTML Full Text' and 'PDF Full Text' links, and a third to the 'Tools' sidebar.

Not secure | eds.b.ebscohost.com/ehost/detail/detail?vid=2&sid=1c70d57b-313a-4158-a599-0bd23eb285ad%40pdc-v-sessmgr06&bdata=JnNpdGU9ZWwhvc3QtG2ZS5zY29wZT1zaXRi#AN=136838545&db=aph

New Search Publications Subject Terms Cited References More

Sign In Folder Preferences Languages Help Exit

ALLEGANY COLLEGE OF MARYLAND

Searching: Academic Search Premier | Choose Databases

EBSCOhost

vaping Search

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Detailed Record

HTML Full Text

PDF Full Text (807KB)

PlumX Metrics

Related Information

Find Similar Results using SmartText Searching.

Result List Refine Search 1 of 3,477

Vaping Viewpoints: A Multi-Segment Understanding of E-Cigarette Risk Perceptions.

Authors: Farrell, Justine Rapp
Hamby, Anne M.

Source: Journal of Consumer Affairs. Jun2019, Vol. 53 Issue 2, p545-571. 27p. 1 Color Photograph, 7 Charts.

Document Type: Article

Subject Terms: *RISK perception
*ELECTRONIC cigarettes
*WARNING labels
*NICOTINE

NAICS/Industry Codes: 325411 Medicinal and Botanical Manufacturing
312220 Tobacco product manufacturing
312230 Tobacco Manufacturing

Abstract: **Electronic cigarettes** (e-cigarettes) are battery-operated devices used to deliver nicotine by vapor and are positioned as a safer alternative to traditional tobacco cigarettes. As a recent entrant to the market, little is known about how consumers perceive the health risks of these devices, raising the question of whether consumers are making informed product adoption and use choices. Study 1 evaluates different consumer usage segments (vapers, smokers, dual users, and nonusers) in terms of their level of perceived risk. Study 2 examines how different groups of consumers' risk perceptions are influenced by on-ad warning labels. Results show that vapers operate as a distinct consumer segment with lower perceptions of harm than other segments, although illustrate greater likelihood to respond to health messaging and on-ad warning information. [ABSTRACT FROM AUTHOR]

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Tools

- Google Drive
- Add to folder
- Print
- E-mail
- Save
- Cite
- Export
- Create Note
- Permalink
- Share
- Listen
- Translate

Images

Go to all 8 images >>

Database Vendors' Help

- Databases are produced by various publishers. Two major database vendors for databases of articles are **EBSCO** and **ProQuest**.
- Each provides similar features such as basic and advanced search capabilities but have different looks and formats.
- There are good support features, so be sure to click on the Help links if you run into problems when using them. Or ask a librarian for help.
- Here is an [introduction video for EBSCO](#)
- Here is an [introduction video for ProQuest](#)

Full-text Availability

- Note that not all records in a database include the entire full-text of the article...some include only the reference and abstract (brief summary).
- If the full-text is not available in the database you will need to take the additional steps to obtain it.

Complete an interlibrary loan request form for **articles**, available [here](#) on the ACM library web site

Or see below:

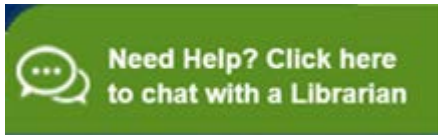
Forms for requesting articles from other libraries can also be found by clicking here:

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Ask for Assistance

If you need individual assistance in choosing and using ACM online databases, feel free to contact a librarian:

- Cumberland Campus Library: 301-784-5138
- Bedford Campus Library 814-652-9528 ext. 6206
- Email libraryhelp@allegany.edu
- Chat



Look for the chat box on the Library web pages