Using Databases

Goals: Students will understand the purpose/function of databases, learn how they differ from Google, begin choosing databases appropriate to a different topics, use different databases to find research articles, and present a short list of articles in a specific bibliographic format. *Optionally*, the students will write rudimentary annotations for the articles they find.

Outcomes:

- Students will use the search features on the library's database list to identify at least four databases appropriate to the course discipline.
- Students will perform keyword searches on at least two databases in order to retrieve at least four research articles (two from each database) relevant to their research topics.
- Students will write accurate citations for the four retrieved articles in a style specified by the professor in order to begin creating a bibliography.
- Optional: Students will answer three specific questions about each source in order to begin writing annotations that will help them learn to assess the relative value of each item.

Materials:

- Instruction room with computers.
- Examples of print indexes for effect and history.
- It is helpful if the students come to class with an idea of what their final research topic will be.
- Optional: Handout on writing citations and annotations.

Time Required: 25 minutes maximum/15 minutes minimum

Lesson:

5 min.

What is a database? Why are databases needed?

• What is the difference between scholarly databases and Google/Google Scholar (scope, cost of information, targeted searching based on database subject coverage, etc.)

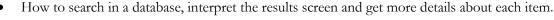


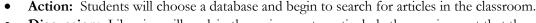
How to access databases at Dickinson (Database List).

• How to use the search features to find an appropriate database (also stress the need to ask for help as the search functions may not be 100% accurate – librarians can always suggest good alternatives).



• Choose one general purpose database and one subject specific database for brief demonstration.





Discussion: Librarian will explain the assignment, particularly the requirement that the retrieved items be cited appropriately. Discuss the annotation if elected. *Handout on citing and annotating (optional) to be provided.*

Assignment/Assessment:

- Students will identify the names of four databases appropriate to the topic of study, and use at least two of them to locate 4 articles relevant to their final project. For *each* article (total of 4), students should provide a photocopy or printout of the first page of the article; a citation in correct format as specified by the professor, and the name of the database in which the article was found.
- Optionally, students will answer the following questions about each source: 1) Who is the author/What are his/her credentials? 2) What is the thesis and main points 3) How could this article support a research paper?
- Students will write down at least one thing about this lesson that was difficult, or that was not understood; and one that was new/previously unknown.

Using Databases Assignment

Librarian:	: Due Date:
Professor	: <u> </u>
Please per share ansv	rform ALL of the tasks on this list. For this assignment, you may not work in groups or wers.
	Ise the Search feature on the library's database list to identify four (4) databases that may over your research paper. List the names of the databases.
□ C	thoose one of the databases you found and find two (2) articles that deal with your topic.
□ C	thoose a second (different) database and find two (2) more articles that deal with your topic.
1)	·
	Write down at least one thing about this lesson that was difficult, or that you did not not not sand one thing you learned that you did not know before.