

Library of Texas – Basic Searching

A guide created by Astrid Oliver on February 9, 2005

Search multiple Texas library catalogs and subscription-only databases simultaneously.

The Library of Texas searches for books, articles, CDs, videos and other information resources from over 65 public libraries, 25 research libraries and 16 subscription-only databases. Library of Texas finds items that have your search terms(s) in their author, title, subject, abstract or ID-number fields. Choose to search only library catalogs, only databases, or a combination of both. Some resources, especially those found in databases, will be available in full-text online. Other items, such as books, CDs and videos, can be obtained through inter-library loan. Access the Library of Texas search interface directly at www.libraryoftexas.org or through the home page of your local library.

Simple Keyword Search:

You are looking for information resources about planning a wedding:

The screenshot shows the Library of Texas search interface. At the top, it says "Search in Libraries and Online Resources" and "LIBRARY OF TEXAS Texas State Library and Archives Commission". On the right, it says "Austin Public Library" with a star icon. Below the header, there are links for "Home", "Clear", and "Help".

The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has three sections: "Subject Areas" with a list of categories (Business Information, General Information, History & Genealogy, Homework & Education, Librarian Tools, Literature & Criticism, Medicine & Health, Newspapers & Magazines, Science & Technology, Spanish Materials), "My favorites" with a link to "lib", and "Personal settings" with links to "Build a group of favorites", "See your search history", and "Delete all your favorites".

The right column is titled "Search - General Information". It contains a welcome message and instructions: "Welcome to the Library of Texas! You can: * Enter words in the box to search the resources that are checked below * Choose a subject on the left to see a different group of resources * Build and save your own groups of resources. See the help page for more instructions." Below this is a search box containing "wedding planning" and a "Search" button. There are also links for "Advanced search", "Un-check all resources", and "Hide resources".

The search results are organized into three sections: "Public Libraries", "Academic Libraries", and "Online Resources". Each section has a list of resources with checkboxes. "Public Libraries" includes Bulverde / Spring Branch Library, Comfort Public Library, Fort Bend County Libraries, Medina Community Library, and Taylor Public Library. "Academic Libraries" includes ACCD - San Antonio College, Austin Community College, Baylor University, St. Mary's University Library, and UT Austin (via OCLC). "Online Resources" includes Academic Search (EBSCO), ArticleFirst (OCLC), and Funk & Wagnalls Encyclopedia (EBSCO). There is also an "Other:" section with a link to "Library of Congress".

Three numbered callouts are present: "1" points to the "General Information" subject area, "2" points to the search box, and "3" points to the "Public Libraries" section.

1 Choose the **Subject Area** in which to search. Each subject area contains a selection of library catalogs and databases that are most relevant to the subject category you have chosen.

2 Enter your **Search Word(s)** into the search box. Only items matching all search words will be displayed.

3 Select in which **library catalogs** and **databases** you would like to search.

Search!

Search Results:

The screenshot shows the Library of Texas search interface. At the top, it says "Search in Libraries and Online Resources" and "LIBRARY OF TEXAS Texas State Library and Archives Commission". On the right, it says "Austin Public Library" with a star icon. Below the header, there's a search bar with "wedding planning" entered and a "Search" button. A dropdown menu shows "Advanced search". Below the search bar, it says "Searching 14 databases 100% finished". A table lists the databases searched:

Database	Count
Academic Search (EBSCO)	4171
ACCD - San Antonio College	15
Austin Community College	15
Baylor University	19

Below the table, there's a "Next" button and a list of search results for "Austin Community College". The results are:

- The Christian wedding handbook : - 1983, 1981
- The working woman's wedding planner / - 1987
- Modern bride wedding celebrations : - 1992
- Jumping the broom : - 1993
- Miss Manners on painfully proper weddings / - 1995
- Weddings / - 1998
- The complete idiot's guide to the perfect wedding - 1997
- The wedding sourcebook - 1998
- Last minute weddings - 1999
- The complete idiot's guide to budgeting for your wedding - 2000

A callout box on the right contains the following text:

Results:
Click on the library catalog or database name to see the results.
The first 10 results from *Austin Community College* consist of :
6 books
4 electronic resources

Results Symbols Key:



Book

Request a book through inter-library loan or search online bookstores to purchase the item.



Electronic Resource

Electronic books and articles from databases. Articles may be available in full-text online. If not, request the source through inter-library loan.



Physical Article

An article that is not available online. Request through inter-library loan.



Video recording

Video cassette or dvd. Request through inter-library loan or search online bookstores to purchase the item.



CD

Request through inter-library loan.

Special Feature:

Design your own unique search interface by choosing **build a group of favorites** from Library of Texas. Select a group of catalogs and databases you frequently use. Name the group and press Save. Your search group will be listed under **My Favorites**. You may build up to ten unique search groups.

The screenshot shows the "Define favorite" search interface. It has a "Subject Areas" sidebar with a list of categories: Business Information, General Information, History & Genealogy, Homework & Education, Librarian Tools, Literature & Criticism, Medicine & Health, Newspapers & Magazines, Science & Technology, and Spanish Materials. Below this is a "My favorites" section with a "lib" button. The main area is titled "Define favorite" and contains a "Name:" field with "My Research" entered and a "Save" button. Below the name field, there are two columns of checkboxes for selecting resources:

Public Libraries	Academic Libraries
<input type="checkbox"/> Abilene Public Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Abilene Christian University
<input type="checkbox"/> Amarillo - East Branch	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCD - San Antonio College
<input type="checkbox"/> Amarillo - North Branch	<input type="checkbox"/> Amarillo College: Amarillo College Business & Industry
<input type="checkbox"/> Amarillo Public Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Amarillo College: Amarillo College Moore County
<input type="checkbox"/> Amarillo - Southwest Branch	<input type="checkbox"/> Amarillo College: Amarillo College Nursing Resource Center
<input type="checkbox"/> Arlington Public Library System	<input type="checkbox"/> Amarillo College: Amarillo College -