

Library of Texas

<http://www.libraryoftexas.org/>

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What is Library of Texas?

It is...

- an online search interface that allows users to search multiple library catalogs and databases from a single location
- offered by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission – the same organization that administers the TexShare program

It includes...

- 63 public library and 26 academic library catalogs
- over 40 TexShare databases*

Some definitions:

Online (electronic) database – a collection of searchable records; includes articles from magazines, journals, newspapers, encyclopedias, and other sources; may include full text or citations and abstracts only; typically requires a subscription

TexShare (<http://www.texshare.edu/>) – a statewide consortium of academic, public, and medical libraries intended for resource sharing; the database component of TexShare provides a selection of electronic subscription databases to member libraries at a reduced cost

When should I recommend it to patrons?

It might be useful when a patron...

- is looking for both books and articles on a single topic
- wants to search more than one database for the same topic
- wants to search other Texas libraries' collections

* In July 2005, the number of TexShare databases will be significantly reduced.

How do I find information through Library of Texas?

1. Choose the group of resources to you want to search:

- Search by predefined **SUBJECT AREA**
 - ▶ automatically selects relevant sources to search
- Or, search a customized group under **MY FAVORITES**
 - ▶ create your customized groups by clicking on “Build a group of favorites” under Personal Settings



2. Choose **SIMPLE SEARCH** or **ADVANCED SEARCH**:

- For **SIMPLE SEARCH**, enter any word or words
- With **ADVANCED SEARCH**, you can:
 - ▶ search for words that appear in certain parts of the documents (such as title, author, subject, or abstract)
 - ▶ choose a time frame

SIMPLE SEARCH:

The image shows a simple search interface with a single text input field and an orange "Search" button to its right.

ADVANCED SEARCH:

The image shows an advanced search interface. It includes a "Title" dropdown menu, an "Author" dropdown menu, and a "Published:" section with an "After" dropdown menu. There are also "Search" and "Simple" buttons.

3. Enter your search terms and click

Search

4. View your results.

- Databases searched appear on the left.
- Results within the selected database appear on the right.
- Click the title to see the document or how to get it.

The image shows a search results page. On the left, there is a search box with the text "second-hand smoke" and a "Search" button. Below the search box, it says "Searching 15 databases 100% finished". On the right, there is a list of results under the heading "Academic Search Premier". The results are numbered 1 to 10 of 1214. The first result is "BUTTING HEADS WITH RALPH. -". The second result is "A study of reactive oxygen species in cigarette. -". The third result is "Pay attention to the small stuff. -". The fourth result is "Cousin Thomas. -". The fifth result is "BLUE ANGELS. -". The sixth result is "Preemptive State Smoke-Free Indoc States, 1999-2004. -". The seventh result is "World Water Day -- March 22, 2005. -". The eighth result is "National Colorectal Cancer Awareness 2005. -".

FOR MORE HELP:

- At any time in your search process, click **HELP** in the upper-right hand corner. The Help topic appropriate to where you are in the search process will appear in a new window.
- Read detailed information about Library of Texas at <http://www.tsl.state.tx.us/lot/index.html>.