

Searching Databases

created by Astrid Oliver on January 25, 2005

What are databases and how are they different from using a library catalog?

Databases are online collections of information that enable you to search many journals and other information sources at the same time. Databases cannot be searched using a library catalog. They must be searched individually or by using the Library of Texas interface, through which many databases may be searched simultaneously. Some databases offer full text, and the content of the article can be printed, downloaded or emailed. Others offer citations and abstracts only. When a database provides only the citation of an article you must use a library catalog to find the journal at your library or obtain it through inter-library loan.

Examples of Full-text TexShare databases

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|--|---|--|
| academic & general content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Academic Search Premier ■ Masterfile Premier ■ Military and Government Collection ■ Student Resource Center GOLD ■ Literature Resource Center ■ NetLibrary eBook Collection | business content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Regional Business News ■ Business Source Premier | health and/or medical content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Health and Wellness Resource Center |
| | genealogy content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ HeritageQuest | newspaper content <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ InfoTrac Custom Newspapers |

How do I find articles in a database?

Keyword Search

You are interested in finding articles about the use of pets as therapy animals, especially with children.

Keywords: **pets, therapy, children**

Consider the following tools and techniques to combine search words into a full Search Statement:

Search operators, or Boolean commands, link search terms using the words AND, OR, and NOT.

AND – the statement ***pets and therapy and children*** searches for records containing all words.

- Use **AND** to retrieve records containing **all** search terms. All terms must be in each record retrieved.
- Use **AND** to narrow your search and retrieve fewer records.

OR – the statement ***children or adolescents*** searches for records possessing either of the words or both of the words.

- Use **OR** to retrieve records containing **either** or **both** search terms.
- Use **OR** to broaden your search and retrieve a greater number of records.
- Use **OR** for synonyms.

NOT – the statement ***children not adults*** searches for records including the word children but excluding the word adults.

- Use **NOT** to exclude certain items from your search.

Sample Full statement: *pets and therapy and (children or adolescents) not adults*

Parantheses () – allow you to combine operators.

Example: ***(children or adolescents) and pets***

Quotes “ ” – allow you to search for an exact phrase.

Example: ***“pet therapy”***

Truncation * - Finds variations and plurals of a word.

Example: ***child**** finds ***child*** and ***children***
pet* finds ***pet*** and ***pets***

Wild Card ? – Use wild cards to substitute for characters in the spelling of a word.

Example: ***adole??ent*** will find adolescent

★ Keyword Search Example:

- ◇ **Basic:** Enter a search statement into a single search box.
Finds articles that have your search term(s) in the **title**, **citation** or **abstract** of the article.

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier interface. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Choose Databases'. The 'Basic Search' tab is selected. Below the navigation, there are links for 'New Search', 'View Folder', 'Preferences', and 'Help'. The 'University of Texas Libraries' logo is also visible. The main search area has a 'Find:' input field containing the search query 'pets and therapy and (child* or adolescent)'. A 'Search' button and a 'Clear' button are next to the input field. A callout bubble labeled 'Enter Search Statement' points to the search input field. Below the search area, there is a 'Refine Search' section with a 'Limit your results:' header. This section contains several filter options: 'Full Text' (checked), 'References Available' (unchecked), 'Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals' (unchecked), 'Published Date' (set to Jan 2000 to Mar 2005), 'Publication' (empty), 'Publication Type' (set to All), and 'Number Of Pages' (empty). A callout bubble labeled 'Choose Limiters' points to the 'Full Text' checkbox. The interface also includes a 'Folder is empty.' message and a 'Reset' button for the limiters.

★ Keyword Search Results:

The screenshot shows the EBSCO Academic Search Premier search results page. At the top, there are navigation tabs for 'Basic Search', 'Advanced Search', and 'Choose Databases'. The 'Basic Search' tab is selected. Below the navigation, there are links for 'New Search', 'View Folder', 'Preferences', and 'Help'. The 'University of Texas Libraries' logo is also visible. The main search area has a 'Searched:' header with the search query 'pets and therapy and (child* or adolescent)'. A 'Find:' input field contains the same search query. A 'Search' button and a 'Clear' button are next to the input field. A callout bubble labeled 'Search Results: 10 Records' points to the search results area. Below the search area, there is a 'Refine Search' section with a 'Limiters set' indicator. The search results are displayed in a table with 10 records. The first record is 'Changes in lifestyle and therapeutic strategy' by Moscato, Davide, published in the Journal of Headache & Pain, Nov 2004 Supplement, Vol. 5 Issue S2, pp 71-3p, 1 chart; DOI: 10.1007/s10194-004-0112-7; (AN 15477035). The second record is 'Pet-o-therapy!' Challenge Newslines, Jun2004 Issue 38, p7, 1/5p, 1bw; (AN 13596375). The third record is 'Pets have learned to sit, stay -- and 'heal'' by Anita Manning, USA Today, 09/03/2003; (AN JOE021290917503). The interface also includes a 'Folder is empty.' message and a 'Reset' button for the limiters.