

LIB 3 - Information Competency

Assignment 9 - Web Databases

Purpose

- To gain knowledge of the structure, scope, and types of Web databases.
- To acquire online search skills applicable for all Web databases.

Instruction

Go to the library Web site at: <http://lib.lbcc.edu>. Click on the "**Online Databases**" button. You will see a list of databases subscribed by the Library on this page. Select each database by clicking on the link name. You will be prompted to log-in; please use the user ID and password given to you at the beginning of the course. Read each question carefully and give the answer according to the requests in the question.

A. *ProQuest Direct*

I. Publications in Modules (or Databases)

Select *ProQuest Direct* by clicking on the name link and log-in using the user ID and password given to you at the beginning of the course. Click on the button "Collections" to see the list of all the modules available in *ProQuest Direct*; you can see that these are discipline-specific modules. Explore one by one the following modules:

- Health Module
- Social Science Module
- Multicultural Module
- Business Module
- Psychology Module
- Arts Module

First, checkmark the box by the module's name, then move the mouse to direct the cursor over the module link. You will see the link "**View Titles**" appears, click on it to see the list of all publications included in the module. Briefly scan through the first few pages of the list of publications of each module to see the names of the publications included in each module. Answer the following questions:

- Are there publications that appear simultaneously in different modules?
- List one publication that appears simultaneously in different modules?
- Are many of the periodicals offering full text articles? (Full text availability is indicated by the full-page icon).

- Based on your observation of the list of publications from these modules, discuss the importance (i.e. the why and how) of doing research in appropriate discipline-specific module or database.

II. Module selection

The first important step to research is to select the most appropriate module for the topic. Although the six topics listed below could be searched in many different modules, I want you to select six different modules, each most closely matched with the topic, as the purpose of this assignment is to acquaint you with various discipline-specific modules. For each topic, answer the following questions:

- Why do you select this module for the topic in question?
- What type of periodicals are indexed in this module (i.e. popular or scholarly or both)?
- Give the exact search terms you used for this search.
- Give one relevant citation from your search result.

(Note: a citation must list author, title, periodical name, volume or issue number, date (month, day, year), page (s) number.)

1. Topic: Child poverty.
2. Topic: Digital divide in education.
3. Topic: Drug policy enforcement
4. Topic: Health hazard of genetically engineered food
5. Topic: The demise of the dot.com companies.
6. Topic: Adolescent depression

III. Guided Search

Guided Search allows you to search simultaneously up to three different fields, plus other limiting features to help you customize your search. Put the mouse cursor over the "**Search Methods**" button to see the drop-down menu; select **Guided Search** by clicking on it. Type your search terms and select the corresponding field for the search terms. Refer to *ProQuest Direct* online help if you need more help.

- You want to find a book review in the Los Angeles Times for the book *The Wind Done Gone* by Alice Randall. Answer this question by:
 - Write down all the exact term (s) you typed in for the search and the corresponding fields you selected for the terms.
 - Give one relevant citation.

B. NewsBank

NewsBank is comprised of four different databases; to select a database, click on the database's name link.

(**Note:** a citation must list author, title, periodical name, volume or issue number, date (month, day, year), page (s) number.)

(**Note:** Topics are listed under the heading **Topics**.)

1. Select **Business NewsBank**. Do a search on the topic of **Microsoft's antitrust case in court**.
 - List the citation of the article written by Stewart Alsop about Microsoft in the magazine *Fortune* sometimes in 2001.
 - Write down the topic (s) of the article.
2. Search **Global NewsBank** on the topic of **the democracy struggle in Africa**.
 - List the citation of the article about Tanzania dated May 14, 2001, in the publication *East African*.
 - Write down the topic (s) of the article.
3. Search **NewsBank NewsFile Collection** for newspaper article about **zero tolerance policy in schools**.
 - List the citation of the newspaper article dated June 11, 2001, in the *Orlando Sentinel*.
 - Write down the topic (s) of the article.
4. Search **StatBank** to answer the three following questions:
 - a. What is the total energy consumed by California residents 1997?
 - b. What is the literacy rate of Vietnam? List the total, male, and female literacy rates of Vietnam.
 - c. Write down the exact path which lead you to this data. For example:
States of the U.S. – Vermont – Economy – Coal production

Hint: **StatBank** is a structured database, starting from the broadest subject to the specific subdivisions of the subject).

C. Infotrac -Health Reference Center

Perform a search on the topic of “**stem cell research**” in professional publications only. You can limit this search by checking the appropriate box under the option **Limit the current search**. Look at the search screen carefully to find the correct checkmark box.

Answer the following questions:

- a. How many hits did you obtain?
- b. Are there full-text articles available?

- c. List one full-text article citation.

D. *Books-in-Print* - Search this database and answer the following questions:

- a. Who is the author that won the Pulitzer Prize for history for the year 2000?
- b. What is the title of the book?
- c. What is the subject of this book?

E. *CollegeSource Online* - Search this database and answer the following questions:

- a. How many colleges in California offering **Master degree in Acting and Directing**?
- b. From this list of colleges, list the name of the college located in Malibu, California.

F. *MediaNet* - Search MediaNet to find out if Long Beach City College Library owns videos relating to the subject of **African-Americans**.

- a. How many videos does LBCC Library own?
- b. List the title of the most recent video on this subject.