

## Choosing the Database(s) that are Right for You

A database has a collection of data (stored information) and is typically in an electronic format. Databases are usually not free; a username and password are generally required (see attached). Professionals that are knowledgeable about specific subject areas write the information found in the databases, this helps ensure the accuracy and integrity of the data.

Every database holds specific information. Some are best suited for science, while others are more appropriate for history. You have to know what information a database contains (see attached). Most databases provide a brief summary of the content for the user.

- Choose a database that meets your research needs (See attached list)
- Remember you can use more than one database when gathering information for research

## Gearing up for Research

Before you begin your research journey you should know the lexile level (reading level) for your grade. This information is available in the packet.

All the Gale databases and Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia discussed in this packet give you the option to search by lexile level if you are using the **advanced search feature (highly recommended)**.

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- You should not use resources that are too easy
- You should not use resources that are too difficult or you will end up plagiarizing. You cannot paraphrase material you do not understand.
- Gather some basic information about your topic using a general search on a database or using the site:edu method on Google (see attached)

## Navigating Your Way to the Databases

1. Go to <http://library.nycenet.edu/common/welcome.jsp?site=4149>
2. The databases are in the right column listed under "Reference Material - Free Databases".

At home you will need the passwords or your public library card to access the databases.

## Lexile Levels

A Lexile measure is a valuable piece of information about either an individual's reading ability or the difficulty of a text, like a book or magazine article. The Lexile measure is shown as a number with an "L" after it — 880L is 880 Lexile.

### Lexile-to-Grade Correspondence

Grade Level	Lexile Level
1	Upto300L
2	140Lto500L
3	330Lto700L
4	445Lto810L
5	565Lto910L
6	665Lto1000L
7	735Lto1065L
8	805Lto1100L
9	855Lto1165L
10	905Lto1195L
11 and 12	940Lto1210L

The definition and chart in this document were found on the *Lexile Framework for Reading* website.

## Searching for Information on a Database

Important things to remember:

- Databases use subject specific vocabulary. In other words, if you are not using the best possible search terms, finding information could be very difficult.
- Complete a general search to help choose the best possible vocabulary for a search term.
- Create a list of possible search terms
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- Always complete an advanced or detailed search. This helps make your search more specific and efficient.
- **Make sure the "full text" box is checked each time you perform a search. If it is not you will end up with many abstracts (summaries) of articles.** Entire articles/documents are always needed when completing a research assignment.
- Pay attention to the drop down menu of words/phrases as you type your search term in the search box. The database automatically suggests more topics. This is called "Search Assist" and it is a great way to find more search terms. (Grolier does not have a "Search Assist" feature.)
- Pay attention to lexile levels. You want to make sure that all documents are the appropriate reading level.

## Searching for Information Using Google

Google is a search engine. It searches for information on the Internet based on the words you include in your search term. Google is a powerful search tool if you use it wisely. Do not type in questions; keep your search terms concise. The following technique will work on any search engine.

### Searching Google:

You only want to use reliable sites to obtain information for research. Follow these steps when searching for information using Google or any other search engine.

1. Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
2. Type a search term in the search box.
3. After your search term include a space and then add "site:edu" (**Example:** colonial hero site:edu)
4. You will notice that all the extensions in your result list are "edu"
5. Go through the list and look for links that are relevant to your topic (you should scan)
6. Create a list of possible search terms based on your current search results (this will help you perform additional searches in order to locate more information).

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## Virtual Reference Library Access

The best way to access the databases:

1. Go to <http://library.nycenet.edu/common/welcome.jsp?site=4149>  
(Library Media Centers' homepage)
  
2. Scroll down towards the bottom of the page. On the right you will see the links to the databases, which are listed under "Reference Material – Free Databases."

or

**Click on the links below or copy and paste them into your address box.**

<p><b>GALE URL:</b>  <a href="http://find.galegroup.com/menu/commonmenu.do?userGroupName=nysl_me_323_tsa">http://find.galegroup.com/menu/commonmenu.do?userGroupName=nysl_me_323_tsa</a></p>	<p><b>PASSWORD AND USER ID:</b>          empirelink</p>
<p><b>GROLIER URL:</b>  <a href="http://auth.grolier.com/login/go_login_page.html?bfs=N">http://auth.grolier.com/login/go_login_page.html?bfs=N</a></p>	<p><b>USER NAME:</b>          novel712</p> <p><b>PASSWORD:</b>          Novel</p>
<p>Students are to use the Modern Language Association (M.L.A.) format for all types research. If you go to the library media centers' homepage there are many M.L.A links that are very helpful. Of course the library media specialist can assist the students with all forms of research as well.</p>	

## **Grolier Encyclopedia**

Information gathered from Grolier's online information page

Consists of comprehensive resources for nonfiction content in most subject areas.

### **Three general reference resources**

- The New Book of Knowledge, which is most suitable for elementary school students.
- The Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, which is most suitable for middle school students.
- The Encyclopedia Americana, which is most appropriate for high school students.

### **Two science intensive resources**

- Amazing Animals of the World, which is most appropriate for elementary school students.
- The New Book of Popular Science, which is appropriate for both middle school and high school students.

### **Two Social Studies intensive resources**

- America the Beautiful: State-by-state history and current events for elementary and middle schools.
- Lands and Peoples: An online resource of countries, cultures, and current events for middle and high schools.

### **La Nueva Enciclopedia Cumbre**

- A comprehensive resource for Spanish speakers and Spanish-language students.

## **Gale Databases found On LMC Website**

All annotations came from the Gale Database Homepage

### **Science/Health Courses**

#### **Academic OneFile 1980 - Present**

Academic OneFile is the premier source for peer-reviewed, full-text articles from the world's leading journals and reference sources. With extensive coverage of the physical sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences, the arts, theology, literature and other subjects, Academic OneFile is both authoritative and comprehensive. With millions of articles available in both PDF and HTML full-text with no restrictions, researchers are able to find accurate information quickly. Includes full-text coverage of the *New York Times* back to 1995. Updated daily.

#### **Expanded Academic ASAP 1980 - Present**

From arts and the humanities to social sciences, science and technology, this database meets research needs across all academic disciplines. Access scholarly journals, news magazines, and newspapers - many with full text and images!

#### **General OneFile 1980 - Present**

A one-stop source for news and periodical articles on a wide range of topics: business, computers, current events, economics, education, environmental issues, health care, hobbies, humanities, law, literature and art, politics, science, social science, sports, technology, and many general interest topics. Millions of full-text articles, many with images. Updated daily.

#### **General Science Collection**

A collection of over 1,000 peer-reviewed journals, providing researchers with the information needed to stay current on the latest scientific developments.

#### **War and Terrorism Collection**

A definitive periodical collection of hand selected titles for analysts, risk management professionals and students of military science, history, and social science.

#### **Health Reference Center Academic 1980 - Present**

Multi-source database provides access to the full text of nursing and allied health journals, plus the wide variety of personal health information sources in InfoTrac's award-winning Health Reference Center. All in a single, easy-to-use database, the material contained in this database is intended for informational purposes only.

#### **Opposing Viewpoints In Context**

*Opposing Viewpoints in Context* is an engaging online experience for those seeking contextual information and opinions on hundreds of today's hottest social issues. Drawing on the acclaimed Greenhaven Press series, the new solution features continuously updated viewpoint articles, topic overviews, full-text magazines, academic journals, news articles, primary source documents, statistics, images, videos, audio files and links to vetted websites organized into a user-friendly portal experience.

### **Environmental Studies and Policy Collection - Present**

A collection of over 800 journals and 6 subject specific Delmar reference titles provide robust coverage of environmental issues and policies, including diverse perspectives from the scientific community, governmental policy makers, as well as corporate interests.

### **Gardening, Landscape and Horticulture Collection - Present**

Farmers, landscape architects, and biotechnologists alike will have their information appetites sated with this collection of nearly 50 journals focused specifically on key issues in gardening, landscaping, and other areas of horticulture. A fertile and growing collection, this collection includes content relating to both the practical aspects as well as the scientific theory of horticulture studies.

## **History/Government/Global Courses**

### **Academic OneFile 1980 - Present**

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### **New York State Newspapers**

Search this database of newspapers published in the state of New York, including the New York Times and the New York Post

### **General OneFile 1980 - Present**

A one-stop source for news and periodical articles on a wide range of topics: business, computers, current events, economics, education, environmental issues, health care, hobbies, humanities, law, literature and art, politics, science, social science, sports, technology, and many general interest topics. Millions of full-text articles, many with images. Updated daily.

### **Diversity Studies Collection**

A must-have for social science, history and liberal arts coursework, this collection explores cultural differences, contributions and influences in our global community. This set includes more than 150 journals.

### **InfoTrac Newsstand - Present**

InfoTrac Newsstand is an innovative Web-based full-text newspaper database, which allows users to search articles instantly by title, headline, date, newspaper section or other assigned fields. Finally, a one-stop source for the day's news and searchable archives. You can customize your online newspaper database features including search options. With InfoTrac Newsstand, you can search a collection of more than 1,000 newspapers, then select your own screen appearance, search options and results format.

**U.S. History Collection**

As any historian will state, the study of history is as much about the present as the past: to that end, this collection provides well-rounded coverage of both the current thinking and events in US History, as well as scholarly work being established in the field. This compilation of journals provides robust and balanced coverage of this field, useful both to the novice historian as well as to the advanced academic researcher.

**World History Collection**

As any historian will state, the study of history is as much about the present as the past: to that end, this collection provides well-rounded coverage of both the current thinking and events in World History, as well as scholarly work being established in the field. This compilation of journals provides robust and balanced coverage of this field, useful both to the novice historian as well as to the advanced academic researcher.

**National Newspaper Index 1977 - Jan 2013**

National Newspaper Index provides quick access to the indexing of America's top five newspapers in one seamless search: The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post.

**War and Terrorism Collection**

A definitive periodical collection of hand selected titles for analysts, risk management professionals and students of military **science**, history, and social science

**Opposing Viewpoints In Context**

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## The Arts

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### **Expanded Academic ASAP 1980 - Present**

From arts and the humanities to social sciences, science and technology, this database meets research needs across all academic disciplines. Access scholarly journals, news magazines, and newspapers - many with full text and images!

### **Fine Arts and Music Collection - Present**

With more than 100 full-text magazines and journals covered in databases such as the Wilson Art Index and RILM, this collection will provide your students with resources to support research in areas such as drama, music, art history, and filmmaking.

### **Career**

#### Vocations and Careers Collection

Finding the right career can be a daunting and high stakes task: finding an appropriate institution of learning, job searching, and maintaining a career are all topics covered by this collection, providing current and applicable content for all vocational milestones. Offering content from nearly 400 journals, this collection provides content from general career guides to highly specialized industry journals.

## English Courses

### **Academic OneFile 1980 - Present**

Academic OneFile is the premier source for peer-reviewed, full-text articles from the world's leading journals and reference sources. With extensive coverage of the physical sciences, technology, medicine, social sciences, the arts, theology, literature and other subjects, Academic OneFile is both authoritative and comprehensive. With millions of articles available in both PDF and HTML full-text with no restrictions, researchers are able to find accurate information quickly. Includes full-text coverage of the *New York Times* back to 1995. Updated daily.

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