

MIDDLETOWN THRALL LIBRARY PRESENTS

DATABASES



WHAT THEY ARE
WHY YOU SHOULD USE THEM

WHAT is a database?

A database contains information you can retrieve, usually through a computer. Databases can cover different topics. As a member of our library you can access “full text article databases,” which contain articles from magazines, scholarly journals, newspapers, and other publications. Encyclopedias, language learning modules, auto repair guides are also available!

WHY should you use databases?

Our databases contain a much higher quality of information than is found on the Internet. On the Internet, anyone can publish information, and you may have no way of knowing if that information is accurate, up-to-date, or free of bias or propaganda. Our databases can help you find *better information faster* and contain many “peer reviewed” articles, which means that information has been examined by professionals prior to publication.

Other things, such as articles from newspapers like *The New York Times* are only otherwise available to you over the Internet if you purchase the article online from a website. We subscribe to numerous databases on your behalf so you have FREE ACCESS to that information! Additional databases are also made available to you through Thrall via the New York State NOVEL program. Databases are periodically added or changed as we seek out superior sources of information for your benefit.

WHERE can you find these databases?

Access databases either at Middletown Thrall Library or through our website (www.thrall.org) by clicking the Databases button and logging in using the number on your library card.

WHAT ELSE should you know?

Articles in databases are as good as the ones you find in print. Many articles are available as PDF (Adobe Portable Document Format) files, which essentially reproduce the article as it originally appeared in print, along with any photos or illustrations. If you have an e-mail account and access databases at the library, you can usually e-mail copies of articles to yourself for FREE. You may also print them out at \$.20 a page. From home, all database access is FREE to you!

Here's a sampling of databases available to you at Thrall (as of February 2006):

Academic ASAP – Nearly 14 million articles on any subject. Full text and abstracts from magazines, newspapers, journals, and other publications.

Ancestry: Library Edition – Search over 1.5 billion names in over 4,000 databases, including U.S. Census, military, court, land, vital, and church records, passenger lists, and more. Available at Thrall.

Annals of American History - Over 2,000 primary source documents and 700 pieces of multimedia for expanding your understanding of the history and culture of the United States.

Auto Repair Center - Access information by specifying make and model of a car. Includes Care and Repair tips.

Biography Resource Center - A comprehensive database of biographical information on more than one million people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas.

Books in Print – Patron Edition - Books, audios and videos in print or forthcoming, including publisher information and availability. Some books may be viewed electronically.

Business & Company Resource Center – Covers over 400,000 US and international companies: histories, chronologies, rankings, statistics, and more.

Classical.com – Read about classical composers, their compositions, and hear their musical works!

CountryWatch - Information on countries worldwide. Available at Thrall.

Custom Newspapers - Articles and abstracts from various newspapers.

EBSCO Middle Search - Full text for over 100 magazines covering general topics appropriate for middle and junior high school students.

Encyclopedia Britannica - Access the complete encyclopedia enhanced with multimedia and select web links.

Grzimek's Animal Life Encyclopedia – Electronic edition of the comprehensive illustrated encyclopedia. Also available in print at Thrall!

Health & Wellness Resource Center - Health information from encyclopedias, medical, nursing, and allied health fields journals, and consumer health publications.

HeritageQuest – Access 25,000+ family/local history books, U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1930, PERSI - The PERiodical Source Index, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, and more.

Informé - Revistas en Español.

Literature Resource Center - Critical essays on contemporary authors, lives and careers of authors in all eras and genres, biographies and bibliographies for more than 90,000 contemporary authors.

MasterFile Premiere - Searchable full text for nearly 1,860 journals, including Consumer Reports, Business Week, and academic titles.

National Newspapers - Articles and abstracts from nationally published newspapers.

New York Newspapers - Articles and abstracts from New York newspapers.

NOVELIST – A reader's advisory for all ages, including children's books, young adult titles, and books for adult readers. Updated monthly. Also has full-text reviews, annotations, and summaries.

OCLC FirstSearch - Collection of databases including WorldCat, a worldwide catalog of book and other materials worldwide, and Wilson Select, full text articles in science, humanities, education and business. *Available only in the library.*

Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center - Articles exploring various viewpoints and facts on major research topics.

Reference USA - Searchable database of companies, organizations, and individuals in the USA. *Available only in the library.*

Rosetta Stone - Learn a new language. Login/register using your library card number, click the Rosetta Stone link once logged in.

Searchasaurus - The same database as EBSCO Middle Search, presented through a colorful, easy interface for children.

SIRS Knowledge Source - Full text articles exploring many topics.

TOPICsearch - This current events database includes 40,000 full text documents carefully selected by a staff of librarians and teachers.

Twayne's Authors - Literary criticism and other information covering approximately 600 authors.

Westlaw Databases - New York State law. *Available only in the library.*

World Book Encyclopedia – Access the entire encyclopedia online!

We're here to help!

As always, let us know whenever you need help finding something. Our librarians are eager and happy to assist you! Stop by the Reference Department or call 341-5461 to speak with a librarian. You can also use our Ask a Librarian service on the web at **thrall.org/ask** to submit questions and receive answers online!