

# Databases



## *What are databases?*

**A database contains information.**

**You use a database (on a computer) to *find information* on a topic.**

## *Where can you find databases?*

**Many databases are available at your school and in the library.**

You can also access many databases through **your school's website** or the **library's website**.

Middletown Thrall Library's website can be found at **www.thrall.org**

Once there, just **click** on the word "**Databases**" and **select a topic**.

Some databases are available only *at the library*. Each database page lets you know if you can access that database outside of the library – for example: at home, if you have Internet access.

If you can access a database at home, you just need to log in using your **library card's number**.

**If you do not have a library card**, please ask your parent or guardian to stop by the Circulation Department and find out how to get one. **A library card is free and very important!**

## *Why should you use databases?*

The Internet has a lot of junk. It can be difficult to find articles and good information. That's where databases can help! In fact, there are good reasons to use databases instead searching the Web:

- ✓ **Databases are easy, fast, and usually *full of very good information!***
- ✓ **Many articles in databases are "peer-reviewed"** – this means experts *approved* the articles.
- ✓ **Databases can save you money!** Many articles on the web cost money.
- ✓ **Databases let you search and browse** by topic, date, author, and other ways.

**If you need to do some *serious research***, databases are often a *great choice!*

Middletown Thrall Library also offers **free access to complete encyclopedias** and **special reference books** both in the library (in print and electronic form) and at our website.



Please inquire at our **Reference Department** to learn more about all the **free services** we offer!