

Kids InfoBits – An all-subject encyclopedia / article database for children.

Literature Resource Center - Critical essays and bios on classic and contemporary authors, lives and careers of authors in all eras and genres.

Literature Criticism Online – Includes litcrit/articles from *Classical / Medieval / Contemporary Literature, Drama, Nineteenth-Century Literature, Poetry, Shakespearean, Short Story, and Twentieth-Century Literary Criticism.*

Literature for Students – *Drama, Novels, Poetry, Shakespeare, and Short Stories for Students.* Overviews of plots, characters, themes, and more.

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

Newspaper Databases – Articles from local or state newspapers.

Novelist Plus – Discover both fiction and nonfiction book suggestions based on authors, titles, or topics you like. Includes some book discussion guides. There's also an edition available for young readers: **Novelist Plus K-8**

Opposing Viewpoints in Context - Explore various views and facts on major research topics as well as popular / controversial debates or current events.

Reference USA – Find companies, organizations, individuals in the USA.

Religion (multiple works): Includes *Encyclopaedia Judaica, Encyclopedia of Religion, Global Viewpoints: Religion, and New Catholic Encyclopedia.*

Salem Health – Disorders, procedures, issues, and related topics. Includes *Salem Health: Cancer, Magill's Medical Guide, Psychology & Mental Health.*

Salem History – American History, Ancient World, Decades (30s, 40s, etc. in America), Great Events, Great Lives, Milestone Documents, and other topics.

Salem Literature - Critical Insights for many famous authors and works. Also includes *Critical Survey of Long Fiction, Masterplots.*

Something About the Author - Biographies of kids' authors and illustrators.

Tell Me More - Learn new languages easily and quickly with this service!

Testing & Education Reference Center - Practice tests (ACT, CLEP, GED, GRE...) and courses, study materials, college planning tools, financial aid, graduate schools, scholarships, and career resources (e.g. resumes).

Travel Guides – Guides to many popular travel destinations around the world. View online or download chapters to laptops, eReaders, smartphones!

Universal Class – Sign up for one or several free classes and interact with real instructors. Over 500 courses are available!

VideoHound's Golden Movie Retriever – Movie reviews and information including length, format, cast, awards, and other interesting facts on films.

Westlaw – Extensive legal research database (state / federal laws, cases). The easier **WestlawNext Patron Access** edition is also available at Thrall.

World Book Encyclopedia – Access the complete encyclopedia!

World News Digest (Facts on File) - Domestic and international news covering all major political, social, and economic events since 1940.

Research help is available! Please visit our **Reference Department** or call **(845) 341-5461** to speak with our librarians. You can ask questions online as well (**www.thrall.org/ask**). We also provide easy and convenient guides to information in the library *and* on the Internet at **www.thrall.org/guides**

*Middletown Thrall Library's
Reference Department Presents*

*Better Research through Thrall's Databases



*As in often *easier, in-depth, more up-to-date, authoritative, productive, and less random,* than most general Web searches

What is a database?

A database contains information. Databases let you *search* through that information (“data”) so you can retrieve specific facts or articles quickly. Databases can cover specific subjects or *many* different topics.

As a member of our library, you enjoy access to “full text article databases,” which contain complete articles as well as abstracts (article summaries) from magazines, scholarly journals, newspapers, and other publications.

Specialized encyclopedias, illustrated reference works, educational services, online music, genealogy tools, and much more are available to you for free!

Why use databases?

Databases often contain a *higher quality of information* than what you might encounter when generally searching the Web. Anyone can publish information online, and you might have no way of knowing if that information is accurate, up-to-date, or free of bias or propaganda.

Databases can help you find *better information faster*, especially since they contain many “peer-reviewed” articles (meaning that information has been examined by professionals or scholars *prior* to its publication).

Databases can save you money! Often you will be asked to *pay* to access an article through a newspaper or journal website. Because Thrall subscribes to *numerous* databases *on your behalf*, you can tap into all of that information freely at the library or elsewhere (e.g. at home!) using your Thrall library card!

Some databases are available to all New York State residents through the NYS NOVEL program (www.novelnewyork.org).

Databases also offer powerful search options and often empower you to discover related information within a few clicks. When you're serious about doing research, databases can be tremendously helpful!

Where?

Access databases right at Thrall on most of our computers. Members of Thrall can access most of our databases and electronic reference works remotely through our website (www.thrall.org) by clicking the **Databases** link on our home page and logging in with their **library card numbers**.

Also...

Articles in databases are usually as good as ones in print. Many articles are available as **PDFs** (Adobe Portable Document Format), which display an article as it was originally printed, along with any photos or illustrations.

If you have an e-mail account, you usually can e-mail copies of articles to yourself for FREE. At the library you can **print articles at \$.20 a page**.

Many articles include citation information, making it very easy for you to write your “Works Cited” or “Bibliography” page!

The following titles represent *major* databases and electronic reference works available at Thrall (as of **September 2013**). Please go to www.thrall.org/dbs to explore *all* of the databases, encyclopedias, and electronic reference resources we offer!

Academic OneFile – Millions of articles on any subject. Full text and abstracts from magazines, newspapers, journals, and other publications.

American Song – Songs by or about African Americans, American Indians, miners, immigrants, children, pioneers. Topic include Civil Rights, politics, Prohibition, the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and protests.

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 other sources. Available at Thrall.

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

Biography in Context – Biographies on hundreds of thousands people from throughout history, around the world, and across all subject areas.

Business Insights Essentials – Date/news for over 400,000 companies.

Business Plan Handbooks - Explore real examples from entrepreneurs.

Chilton Library – Automotive repair info and tips by make and model.

Classical.com – Listen to classical music, read about classical composers, their compositions, discover classical performers and performances.

Community Organizations & Associations – Thrall's own database of local (Orange County / Hudson Valley) community services and resources.

Contemporary World Music – Listen to music from around the world. Genres include flamenco, gospel, reggae, fusion, jazz, and Bollywood.

CountryWatch – News, information and statistics on countries worldwide.

EBSCO Middle Search – Articles from 100+ magazines for young students.

eLibrary Elementary – Articles, images, etc. for young researchers.

Encyclopedia Britannica – Access *the complete encyclopedia online!*

Eyewitness Companions: Art, Film, Great Musicians, Mythology, Philosophy, Photography, Religions – Illustrated reference works by DK.

Gale Virtual Reference Library – Complete reference works always available online. Includes *African American Almanac*, *The African-American Years*, *American Decades Primary Sources*, *Ancient Europe: 8000 BC-1000 AD*, *Arts and Humanities through the Eras*, *Elizabethan World Reference Library*, *Encyclopedia of Latin American History & Culture*, *Encyclopedia of Political Science*, *Encyclopedia of Scientific Principles*, *Encyclopedia of Space*, *Encyclopedia of Womens' Health*, *Encyclopedia of World Biography*, *Gale Encyclopedia of Children's Health*, *Historic Events for Students*, *The Gale Encyclopedia of Surgery and Medical Tests*, *Global Viewpoints*, *Holidays Symbols & Customs*, *Irish History & Culture*, *Men's Health Concerns*, *New Dictionary of the History of Ideas*, *UXL Encyclopedia of Science*, *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*.

Grolier Online – Includes *Encyclopedia Americana*, *Grolier Encyclopedia*.

Health Reference Center Academic – Consumer health articles and videos. Includes peer-reviewed medical journals.

HeritageQuest – 25,000+ family/local history publications including the U.S. Federal Census, 1790-1930 and PERSI (PERiodical Source Index).

Our list continues on the *back page!* →