

Better Research *through* Databases

(2012 Edition)

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 usually contain a higher quality of information than what you might encounter when searching the Web. Remember: 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 (which means 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 free information at the library or through our website 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. Please go to www.thrall.org/dbs to see *all* databases and electronic reference resources Thrall provides:

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

African American Almanac – Historical and current information on African American history, society and culture, and more.

American Decades Primary Sources – Covers the 20th century and offers insights into each decade's most important events, people, and issues.

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

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.

Ancient Europe, 8000 BC to 1000 AD: An encyclopedia of the Barbarian World - From prehistoric origins through the early Middle Ages. Includes illustrations, maps, a chronology, and more.

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

Arts and Humanities through the Eras - Milestones and movements in the arts, literature, music, religion, history, culture, architecture, dance, fashion, literature, philosophy, theater, and much more.

Biography in Context - A comprehensive database of biographical information on hundreds of thousands people from throughout history, around the world, and across all disciplines and subject areas.

Business & Company Resource Center – Over 400,000 US and international companies: histories, rankings, statistics, trends, and more.

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, singers, and more.

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. Flamenco, gospel, reggae, worldbeat, fusion, jazz, Bollywood, and more.

CountryWatch - Information and statistics on all countries in the world.

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!

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

Fiction Connection - Books, audios and videos in print or forthcoming, including publisher information and availability.

Gale Virtual Reference Library – Entire reference works, including the *Encyclopedia of Religion, Irish History & Culture*, and many other titles!

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

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.

InfoTrac Newsstand - Articles and abstracts from various newspapers.

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.

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

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 – With information on over 150,000 fiction and juvenile titles, this database was designed to help you find a great book to read. Includes read-alike lists and some book discussion guides.

Opposing Viewpoints in Context - Explore various views and facts on major research topics, controversial current events, and more.

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

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

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

Testing & Education Reference Center - Practice tests, courses, and more.

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

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

Something About the Author Online - Illustrated biographical profiles of children's authors and illustrators.

Twayne's Authors - Criticism and other information on over 600 authors.

Universal Class – Sign up for one or more 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 assistance: 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