

Library Databases vs. the Web

Library Databases:

are organized collections of magazine, journal, and newspaper articles. Each database has its own search methods.

The Web:

is a vast unorganized collection of materials. The Web is searched using search engines.

Examples of Library Databases:

- Academic Search Premier
- SIRS Knowledge Source
- Science Resource Center

Examples of Web Search Engines:

- Google
- Yahoo
- MSN

Availability:

Each library subscribes to different databases. LCC Library databases are available to LCC students and staff members 24/7. Some of the articles are not full-text.

The Web is freely available to the public, also 24/7. Researchers might have to pay extra for full text content, particularly in the case of scholarly materials.

Stability:

You can depend on content remaining in a database. If you find it once, you can find it again.

On the Web, content can appear or disappear at any time.

Reliability:

Most information in Library databases originally was published on paper. Articles went through an editorial process. For this reason, instructors often prefer that students use databases for research papers.

Information on the Web can come from anywhere and anybody. Researchers must determine the reliability of any website for themselves.

Precision:

Library databases have numerous specialized search features, allowing researchers to refine their results for maximum efficiency.

On the Web, it's often difficult to sort out which sites are appropriate for a research paper.