

## **What is a library database?**

AUBIE Asks @ the Libraries!

When you have an assignment to do, and your professor says not to conduct your research on Google, but rather to use a library database to gather your sources.

You may ask yourself “What is a library database?” and “Why should I use one?”

We can begin answering these questions by examining the differences between a library database and Google.

Although not everything is available on Google, you’ll still have a whole lot of search results to sift through. For instance, ads will appear, although some can be tricky to identify. You’ll see blogs and wikis written by people who may or may not have expertise on the topic they are writing about. And, you must be on guard in terms of determining whether a source has an agenda or is bias in some way.

When using a library database, you must still evaluate the sources that you use. For example, it is common for a newspaper editorial to contain opinion or bias. Generally, however, sources found in a library database are considered reliable, and are usually articles from known journals, magazines, and newspapers.

A library database also provides you with access to sources that in many cases you would be asked to pay for on Google.

As an Auburn student, you have access , both on and off-campus to the extensive list of databases that the library subscribes to. Keep in mind that no one database contains all articles. You may need to search multiple databases to complete your research.

For your convenience, databases are organized on the library website by subject.

Lastly, databases have varying looks, but have the same basic components. These include search boxes, ways to limit your search, and lists of results.

Librarians are available to help you learn more about library databases.

Remember our email address, [askalibrarian@auburn.edu](mailto:askalibrarian@auburn.edu)