

# Accessing Databases at the M State Libraries

**Databases:** The M State Libraries subscribe to multiple databases to help with your research process and supplement your classroom learning. You can find the databases listed alphabetically or by vendor (EBSCO, Proquest, etc...) on our website at [Minnesota.edu/library](http://Minnesota.edu/library).

## Why use a Database?

- Databases contain credible and reliable sources and the content is evaluated for authority and accuracy.
- Future classes and programs require the use of scholarly sources.
- Articles are often written by experts and journalists and contain information from published/scholarly works.
- Contains Magazine and newspaper articles, scholarly materials, dissertations, eBooks and films, such as documentaries.
- Paid for by the library so you have free access to scholarly information.

## Tips for using the database:

- Use “AND” to combine keywords and phrases when searching the electronic databases for journal articles. (Ex. united states and foreign policy)
- Start with broad search terms and narrow your scope as you go.
- Limit your search to full-text only if you only want articles available in full online.
- Most database vendors will not let you save searches, so always print or email yourself the articles you are interested in reading.
- Look for ways to copy citations – most databases will provide you with the MLA and APA citations for articles.
- Keep an eye out for the differences in magazine articles and academic journal articles. Academic journal articles are often designated by the words: *academic journals, peer reviewed, scholarly journals*.

## Database Highlights:

- **EBSCO**
  - EBSCO MegaFile
  - Points of View Reference Center
- **Gale/Cengage Learning**
  - Gale Virtual Reference Library
  - Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- **ProQuest**
  - ProQuest

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