
Using Online Databases

Long Beach City College subscribes to several online databases which provide legitimate, essay-worthy resources on myriad issues and topics, and, as a student at LBCC, you have access to these databases as part of your tuition.

Online databases are sort of like electronic warehouses of articles, essays, and other selections. Instead of trolling the web, however, and finding research with suspicious credentials, LBCC's on-line databases have trustworthy information that has been deemed appropriate for writing at the highest levels of academia.

Online databases are an incredible resource where you can find information to use as support for academic essays, *but do not use databases as a substitute for going to the library*. Rather, use them to complement other sources.

- Using online databases helps shorten the time dedicated to researching topics. However, do not rely solely on online databases for research. Visiting the library in person and finding periodicals, using microfiche, or searching the book stacks is still the most beneficial way to find information.

If you're not familiar with college libraries, there are so many resources at your disposal. Librarians are available at the LBCC Library Help Desk who are happy to assist you with any questions you have, whether it's finding a book in the stacks, learning how to do research, or navigating online databases.

To use the online databases:

1. Visit the LBCC Library at: www.lbcc.edu/library. Click the "Search for Articles" button to access the databases.
2. Choose one of the many databases offered and follow the directions listed (some of the more popular titles are "Proquest," "CQ Researcher," "EBSCOhost," and "Issues & Controversies.")
3. Begin searching for topics by using various key words--don't use the same word over and over again.
4. Change the phrasing of your searches to find new and varied results.