



Finding Information for Speeches

http://library.lsc.edu/04_GetHelp/documents/PublicSpeaking2.pdf

USING LIBRARY DATABASES and the WEB

LIBRARY DATABASES are subscription services purchased by LSC-O, so that our students have access to the "hidden" Web for high quality, authoritative online resources. Library databases are collections of articles that have been published in print magazines, newspapers, journals, encyclopedias and other reference books. We also have a database of e-books called **NetLibrary**, and two collections containing numerous reference books. We will look at some of these databases today.

FINDING OUR DATABASES

Go to the library home page at **library.lsc.edu**. Under the heading **Articles and Reference Information** (middle column) click to locate databases by type of information, major academic subject, or A-Z by the database name. At these lists of databases, click the database name to open. Use this sheet as a guide to selecting a database for speech research. **Off campus access into the library's databases: Provide your MyLSC-O login.** If you need help with a username or password, ask for help at the library help desk on 2nd floor.

GETTING STARTED: Some ways to find a topic and start your research:

- Browse for articles in a GENERAL database (covering all topics) such as Ebsco's **Academic Search Complete** or Proquest's **Research Library**. Type a subject term in the search box (one or two words) or simply browse online in a magazine you know of related to your topic.
- Browse for a topic in the online version of the **Encyclopedia Americana**, a general encyclopedia, by searching for topics and then narrowing down to more specific topics. Also, within that database, try using the provided links to good quality Web sites within each article to the right the page.
- Browse print magazines on your interest in our Periodicals area on second floor. We have many magazines on sports, crafts, hobbies, travel, history, popular culture, and other interests. If you don't find anything on your interests, make a suggestion to us!
- Browse our reference area in a section of interest to you. Ask at the help desk for guidance. We have MANY subject encyclopedias to help get ideas for topics. We also have two online reference collections: **Gale Virtual Reference Library** and **Credo Reference**
- For topics on health or disease, the freely available Web site **MedlinePlus.gov** has good quality information for the general public. We recommend it over other web sites because of the quality of the information provided (dates, authors, sources, etc) that allow the creation of complete citations.
- The database **Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center** is a good place to find a topic for persuasive speeches. Each tab on the results screen has a different type of information.

INFORMATIVE SPEECHES

After deciding on a topic, begin research with a broad overview of a topic such as an encyclopedia article or other type of reference source, and then narrow it down to a few key points. An encyclopedia article helps with defining terms, organizing ideas, seeing relationships to other topics, learning the history and general information on a topic. Try one of the general encyclopedias—or ask at the help desk for a subject encyclopedia on your topic. We have many of these in our reference area, great for more specific subject areas.

PERSUASIVE SPEECHES

When you are preparing a persuasive speech, you may want to begin with discussions of your topic in reference articles for background information and follow up with newspaper or news magazine articles and editorials on the topic.

The following sources provide good information on topics for persuasive speeches:

- **Opposing Viewpoints**—a database of persuasive essays and other information on a wide range of topics. Composed of several book series covering popular issues plus other types of resources such as major newspapers, weekly news magazines, reference, statistical and Web sources. Click the reference tab to get the broad overviews of issues. Pro and con essays are on the first tab called Viewpoints. News and Magazine tabs provide newspaper and weekly new magazine articles.
- **Congressional Digest**—a magazine, browse through it online in **Academic Search Complete** or in print form in our periodicals. Each issue addresses one current topic providing pro and con essays and speeches by members of the U.S. Congress.
- **Current Issues**—an encyclopedia on all issues in Reference at HN59.2 .C87 2002. This encyclopedia is also fully online in **Opposing Viewpoints**: click the **Reference tab**
- **Encyclopedia of Bioethics**—in Reference at QH332 .E52 2004 -5 volumes
- **Gale Virtual Reference Library**—a collection of 10 online encyclopedias, including one on ethics: Encyclopedia of Ethics Tip: Gale databases are faster in any browser other than I.E.
- **TopicSearch**—database of current news sources providing essays and editorials.

FINDING BOOKS

On our home page look under the heading “**Books, eBooks and videos**” (first column) click links to open the library catalog to search in two Lamar libraries (Beaumont and LSC-Orange) at the same time. Books located at Lamar in Beaumont can be requested for transfer to our library. These requests usually take 2 to 3 days for arrival. Call the circulation desk (409) 882-3982 to check on any transfers.

Also try the Google Books link. Click [Find this book in a library](#) which accesses all library catalogs worldwide in something called WorldCat. We can borrow a book from any of the WorldCat libraries through our interlibrary loan service. Just fill in the information on the online ILL form and we'll call when the book is here.

The Orange Public Library catalog is also available on the page called [Other Library Catalogs](#). Use your Lamar ID card for checking out a book at the Orange Public Library.

FINDING STATISTICS

Use an almanac to find quick facts and statistics on a topic. It is usually best to start in the main subject index of an almanac, which is usually in the back of the book. Online almanacs are listed under **Databases** then **Reference Databases**. **Opposing Viewpoints** database has a Statistics tab to click for statistics on specific topics.

Examples of Almanacs:

- **Statistical Abstract of the United States**—on the Web and in Reference at HA 202 A1 Statistics collected by the many governmental agencies that gather information.
- **Texas Almanac**—in Reference at AY 311 D3 T5 Statistics and other info on Texas topics
- **World Almanac and Book of Facts**- in Reference at AY 67 N5 W7

FINDING QUOTATIONS, ANECDOTES, & HUMOROUS STORIES

Spice up your speeches with jokes, stories, and quotations. **Credo Reference** has quite a few books that are collections of quotations. Search the catalog: look for jokes as a subject for joke books. There are many.

CITING SOURCES IN MLA STYLE—

Doing research of any kind requires that you learn to cite your information correctly to avoid plagiarism. Rephrasing or changing up the wording in sources still requires that you cite your original sources. Citing guides are available at the library home page under the heading “**Help !!!**” Click **Citing sources (APA, MLA)** Print the MLA guide of basic rules and lots of examples.

Call or visit the help desk with any questions: 409-882-3082. Or email your questions to us by clicking Ask a Librarian under Help!!! on the library home page.