Database Searching

The Library provides access to several dozen databases. In general, the term “database” refers to information organized in some way to allow for easy retrieval. This could be a collection of articles published in academic journals that cover the latest research being done in a particular field, such as Academic OneFile, or it could be the contents of magazines published online as well as in print, such as General Reference Center, or it could be a collection of writings on a topic that have been previously published in various formats, such as Opposing Viewpoints.

From the Library homepage

http://academics.ttc.edu/lynx

Scroll down until you see the area in the detail at right

Click on the Academic OneFile icon and look at the home page of that database.

This database covers all subject fields, and contains several million articles. The default search type is a “Keyword” search, which looks for the term in several different areas of the journal article. You may want to change the search type to “Subject,” especially if you already know the Library of Congress subject heading that best describes your topic.

A Keyword search for a term that is not limited in any way usually generates a very large list of results.

A Subject search for the same term, also not limited, gives a smaller list.

Our final search shows a Subject search that has been limited to contain only full-text articles that appeared in peer-reviewed publications. Using these tools we have removed all of the sources that would not be appropriate to use in writing a research paper.

http://academics.ttc.edu/lynx/
Circulation desk 646-1750
library@ttc.edu
If your topic is very large, it may be helpful for you to see how it has been subdivided into smaller areas. From the main database page, click on the **Browse Subjects** link.

Now we see how our large topic has been divided into more specific subject areas. Just click on the subdivision that pertains to your project. Here, for example, we have 234 articles about **Diagnosis of Child Abuse**.

We could also select another topic that is closely related to our original subject. You might find a term that is more pertinent in this list. In this case, perhaps **Child Sexual Abuse** is a better topic.

Remember to check the full-text and peer-reviewed boxes to limit your search to items that will be acceptable sources for your research. Our final list is reduced to just over 300 journal articles, all full-text and peer-reviewed. That's a big improvement from a list of more than 10,000!