

# Quick Guide to using a database

## What should I use: multidisciplinary or subject specific databases?

Use **multidisciplinary databases** if you have a broad topic or a subject of general interest. Multidisciplinary databases index a variety of topics in different fields and have a user friendly interface.

Use **subject specific databases** for in depth and peer reviewed articles related to a particular subject. Subject or core databases are advanced in a specific field (e.g. Business, engineering, political science and public administration and many others)

## What does Full text vs. Abstracting Database mean?

**Full text databases** provide you with full articles (in html or PDF formats) and not only citations or abstracts e.g.

2. [Return to Paradise](#). By: Kurlantzick, Joshua. New Republic, 9/19/2005, Vol. 233 Issue 12, p42-42, 1p; (AN 18222800)  
[HTML Full Text](#) [PDF Full Text](#) (227K)

When you click on "HTML full text" you will get the full article.


**Abstracting databases** provide you only with the abstract or summary of the article.

1. [The impact of environmental temperature on lithium serum levels](#). By: Wilting, Ingeborg; Fase, Sandra; Martens, Edwin P.; Heerdink, Eibert R.; Nolen, Willem A.; Egberts, Antoine C. G.. Bipolar Disorders, Dec2007, Vol. 9 Issue 6, p603-608, 6p, 2 graphs; DOI: 10.1111/j.1399-5618.2007.00438.x; (AN 26451591)  
[More full-text options.](#)

[More full-text options](#) will lead you to the full-text if the University Libraries subscribe to the journal.

## Sample Search

From the University Libraries' main page, go to "Databases" under "Find"

Choose the database you wish to search. Check the  icon available next to the database title for details.

Type your terms in the search box; you may want to limit your results to "Full text"

Find:    

in:  

Click on "HTML Full text" or PDF whenever available to get the Full text of the desired article.