



Databases vs. Websites: What's the difference?

“Sources that don’t count as the Web”

What is an online database?

- Online databases contain information from published works, including complete articles from books, magazines, and newspapers encyclopedias and other reference books.
- Library databases are searchable by Keywords, Subject, Author, Magazine Title, Date, etc.
- Library databases provide citation information: Author, if available, Title of Article Publication (Title of Magazine, Newspaper, or Reference Book) and Date of Publication.
- There are different kinds of databases to help you with your research including: Newspapers & Magazines, Opposing Viewpoints, Biography Resource Center, and Literature Resource Center.

How are the library’s online databases different from websites?

Library’s Online Databases	Websites
<p>Online databases include material created by professionals or experts in the field like book, magazine and journal publishers.</p> <p>Often, you can see the EXACT same article that is in the book or magazine. Citation information is given (Title, publication, date).</p> <p>Most of what you find on the databases is not available elsewhere unless you pay for it. You cannot find the information through Google or other search engines.</p> <p>Some publishers are no longer providing information in a printed format. The only way to get the information now is by using an online database.</p> <p>Cost: Free to you! The Library pays for these databases so that you can use them free of charge even from home.</p>	<p>The Internet does have some excellent information, including some information that is not available anywhere else. You just have to be willing to sort through the information and determine what is reliable.</p> <p>Anyone with a computer can publish on the Web, regardless of knowledge or expertise.</p> <p>Some websites publish incorrect facts, hoaxes and jokes. Often websites are old but not removed.</p> <p>Search engines have their own rules about which websites come up first on the page, often influenced by advertising dollars.</p> <p>Some websites are free, but others may charge for information.</p>

How Do I Use the Online Databases?

You can access the online databases from any Santa Clarita Public Library. To use the databases from home, you will need to enter your library card number. Go to our website: www.santaclaritalibrary.com and click on “Research & Reference”

For additional help or questions please call the Valencia Library at 661-259-4942