



Skill Focus: Finding Information	Learning Objective: Understanding different databases contain different resources, types of information, date ranges, etc.
Duration: 30 minutes	Learning Outcome(s): Students will be able to select an appropriate database based on the information need.

Activity Plan: This activity is designed to help students understand different databases contain different types of information. As students move into their discipline, comparing familiar multisubject databases to discipline specific databases will be beneficial.

Introduction (5 minutes)

- ⇒ Ask students which databases they typically use for research (Example: an EBSCO database, JSTOR, etc.), what kind of research they were doing, and if these databases had what they needed.
- ⇒ Explain that different databases contain different information and talk about how you might use specific databases for discipline specific research.

Exploration (15 minutes)

- ⇒ Choose a few different databases, for example Academic Search Ultimate or JSTOR, and a few databases specific to the discipline you teach in. Choose four databases max. Adjust the questions based on the needs of your course/assignment/discipline.
- ⇒ Put students into pairs or groups and assign each group a database to explore.
- ⇒ Have them complete the following worksheet. They will not have a lot of context going into this activity. The idea is for them to explore the database and learn about it on their own before sharing with the class.

Share out (10 minutes)

- ⇒ Have the groups that had each database share their findings with the class. Discuss why or why not the database might be useful and in what context.

Connection to TAMU Student Learning Outcomes

- ⇒ Evaluate, analyze, and integrate information from a variety of sources
- ⇒ Exhibit the skills necessary to acquire, organize, reorganize, and interpret new knowledge

Database Exploration Activity

1. What type of information can you find in this database?

2. Does this database have primary sources, secondary sources, or both?

3. Are there any limitations on the time period that the database covers? If yes, what are they?

4. Are there any limitations on the geographic areas covered by this database? If yes, what are they?
