

Homework Help Online

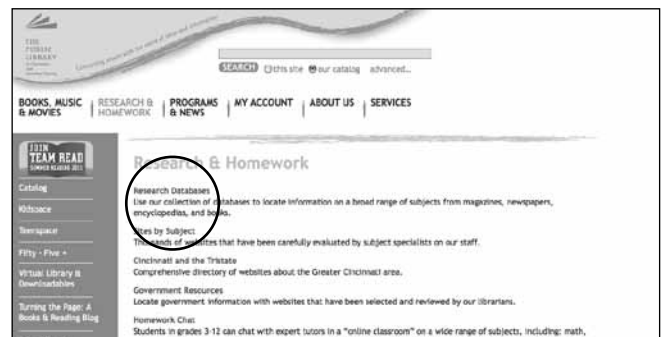
Struggling with a homework assignment that's due tomorrow? Can't decide on a topic for your research paper? Going crazy trying to find information about a famous historical figure?

Did you know that the Library's collection of online databases can be used to help you with these kind of questions? That you can use these databases from home, 24/7? And all you need to use them is your library card? Getting started is easy—just use this handy guide!

Getting Started



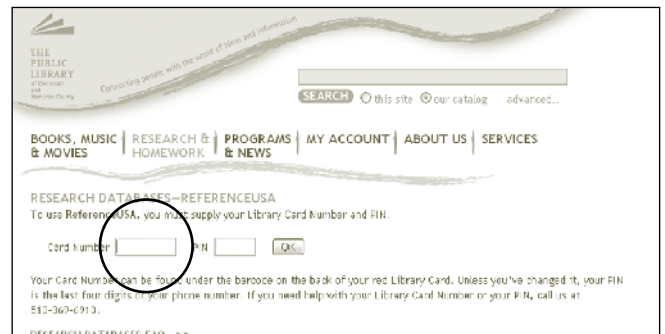
1 From the Library's homepage, www.CincinnatiLibrary.org, click on **Research & Homework**.



2 Next, select the **Research Databases** link.



3 You can browse the resources by subject or title.



4 If you're using the databases from home, you'll be asked to enter your library card number and PIN once you've selected a resource. Your PIN is the last four digits of the phone number on your library card application, unless you change it.



SOME HELPFUL STARTING POINTS FOR

Homework Help

Books & Literary Criticism

Novelist Plus offers fiction and nonfiction book discussion guides, book reviews, curriculum resources, plus features that allow you to search by author, title, series, plot, and “read-alikes” for favorite authors.

Novelist K-8 Plus—a resource for younger readers—is also available.

- Our class is studying *Brave New World*. We'd like to read some other novels about dystopian societies.
- I'm a teacher and need a discussion guide for *The Hunger Games*. Background information about the author would be helpful too.

The **Literature Resource Center** is a good source for information on writers, poets, essayists, journalists, playwrights, etc., including biographical information and critical overviews of their work.

- I need some background information about J.D. Salinger's life and work.
- Where can I get a list of African American authors who wrote during the Harlem Renaissance?
- I have to write a report about the 1930s and need a list of famous writers and literary works from that time, along with information about literary movements and historical events of the period.

Magazines & Newspapers

ProQuest offers access to full-text articles from hundreds of national and international newspapers.

- I'm writing a paper about the Columbine shootings and need articles from Colorado newspapers.
- I heard a story on the radio about an article in an Irish newspaper about President Obama. How can I find it?
- I need three newspaper articles about Hillary Clinton. Some editorial cartoons would be helpful too.

Turn to **MAS Ultra-School Edition** and **ProQuest** for full-text articles from thousands of well-known magazines.

- I'm looking for magazine articles about Haiti earthquake relief efforts.
- Where can I find articles about Zora Neale Hurston for a paper I'm working on?
- My teacher wants me to pick a topic and find five recent magazine articles about it.

Biographies

From Aristotle to Paul Zindel, **Biography in Context** and **Biography Reference Bank** have information about people in the arts, science, business, politics, sports, government, and history.

- When was Gary Paulsen born? How long has he been writing books? I need a picture of him too.
- I'm working on an oral report about Steve Jobs. Can you tell me how he got started in computers?
- What is Eminem's real name?

Current Events

Consult **Opposing Viewpoints in Context** when you're looking for statistics, magazine and newspaper articles, images, and web resources about important social issues such as euthanasia, censorship, and gun control

- My teacher wants me to write a pro/con paper on capital punishment.
- I have to write a term paper but don't know what topic to pick. Where can I look for ideas?
- I'm a teacher looking for the most current information about the evolution debate for my students.

ProQuest offers access to articles from hundreds of well-known newspapers and magazines.

- Where can I find a magazine article about Dolly, the first cloned sheep?
- I'm writing a paper about the 2008 presidential election and need some newspaper articles about the debates.

History

The **U.S. History in Context** includes thousands of primary source documents (letters, speeches, legislative acts, etc.), magazine articles, digitized maps, and photographs.

- When did Patrick Henry say, "Give me liberty or give me death!"?
- I need the text of the Stamp Act. Where can I find it?
- When was the Berlin Wall torn down?

Science

Facts on File Science Online is organized by subject area (chemistry, environmental science, forensic science, mathematics, physics, etc.) and type of resource (printable diagrams, experiments, biographies, videos and animations). It also includes biographies, definitions, a conversion calculator, and thousands of essays on major issues in science and technology.

- I have to do a science fair project about light refraction and need some help getting started.
- I have to include color diagrams in my PowerPoint presentation on volcanoes.
- Where can I find information about global warming and climate change?

Test Prep

LearningExpress Library and the **Testing and Education Reference Center** have interactive online practice tests and tutorials. Tests include the GED, ACT, PSAT, SAT, and a variety of AP exams.

- I need some extra math practice for an upcoming test.
- Is there a place where I can get a personalized writing analysis that identifies my strengths and weaknesses?

Homework HelpNow

Use **Homework HelpNow** or **KnowItNow** to work with tutors or librarians on specific homework problems and questions. **Homework HelpNow** is for students in grades K-Adult and is available every day from 2:00-11:00 p.m. **KnowItNow** is available 24/7.

- I need the formula to figure out the total number of degrees in any polygon.
- What is the definition of least common multiple?
- I need to understand Newton's Laws for a quiz on Monday. Can you help me?
- I need some help with the footnotes and bibliography for my research paper.

MORE HELPFUL RESOURCES
AVAILABLE AT

www.CincinnatiLibrary.org

Resources for Younger Students

Kids Infobits is designed to help elementary school students with research. It includes magazines, newspapers, and reference books on the arts, science, people, government, history, and sports. Articles are labeled "easy" or "more difficult" to read.

- I am in the third grade and want to find some magazine and newspaper articles about the Iraq war.
- I am doing a project on AIDS and need charts, graphs, magazine, newspaper, and encyclopedia articles. Can I find all of those resources in one place?

CultureGrams offers reports about the history, daily life, and customs of world cultures. Reports typically include a regional overview, maps, statistics, flags, biographies of well-known people and a recipe collection. The "Kids" and "State" edition articles are appropriate for grade school students.

- I need a timeline on the history of China. Where can I look?
- I need to create a table that shows the populations, life expectancy, infant mortality rates, and adult literacy figures of seven different countries.

Use **World Book Kids** to search for articles, pictures, maps, and definitions. Lots of hands-on activities, puzzles, and exercises for elementary school students and teachers are also available.

- I need to do a report on Ohio. Where should I start to get the basic information?

Frequently Asked Questions

What's the difference between using a database and searching Google?

Information in databases has been reviewed and edited by experts and comes from reliable, authoritative sources. Using a database instead of Google saves you time and gives you search results that are accurate, objective, and current.

Is there any charge for using them?

No. The Library provides the databases free of charge to our customers. All you need to use them is your library card.

What's my library card number?

Your library card number is located under the barcode on the back of your library card. Your PIN is the last four digits of the phone number you gave us when you applied for your card.

Can I email the results to myself?

Yes, most databases will let you email articles to yourself. Many also let you save your search results to a special folder,

create bibliographies, and will generate citations for you.

What does it mean when a database offers the "full-text" of an article from a magazine or newspaper?

Full-text means the entire article, not just a summary of it, is available online.

I searched for information in all these places and I still can't find what I'm looking for. What now?

Call (513) 369-6900 and a reference librarian will be happy to help you! Or look for **Ask a Librarian** link on our homepage under **Services**. **The Homework Central Department** is a safe, comfortable space at the Main Library where students can drop in and work on homework independently or with the help of a volunteer. The Department is equipped with computers, reference materials, and school supplies for student use. Homework help assistance is also available at several branch libraries. Check the Library's website

for locations and times or call (513) 369-6900 for details.

My Library card is blocked because of my fines. Can I still use Homework Help Now and the Library's databases?

Yes, you may use these online Library resources but you may not download ebooks or music, or check out any materials while your card is blocked.

I lost my Library card, what should I do?

As long as your card is not in collection, you may get a new Library card at any of our 41 locations in Hamilton County or you may call (513) 369-6900 to verify that the information on file is current and you will be given your card number so that you may access Library resources.



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