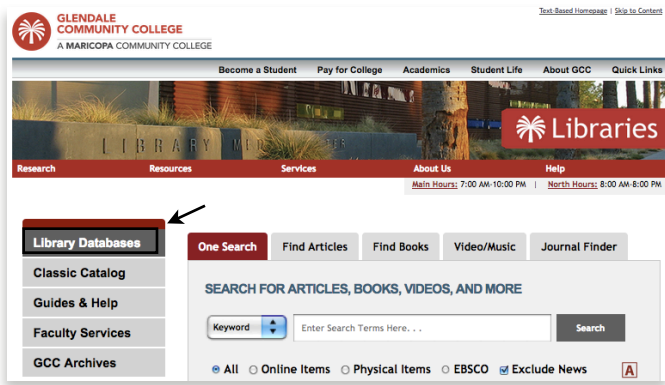# An Introduction to Searching GCC Library Databases

Start at the Library's home page at **lib.gccaz.edu/lmc**. Click on the **Articles & Databases** link located on the left side of the search box.

GCC Library's 130+ databases organized into 24 subject categories on the next page. Explore the categories. Do you see one that matches your research topic?

A window describing each database pops up when you move the cursor over its title. This summary can help you decide which database to choose.

Explore the databases

Want to begin your research with an introduction to your topic? Try **Credo Reference** or **Gale Virtual Reference Library** in the **General Reference** category.

Want an all-purpose database that covers a lot of subjects? Explore the **General/All Subjects** category.

Does your research focus on a person? Explore **Biography in Context** in the **Biography** category.

Working on a persuasive or argumentative research paper? Explore **Issues and Controversies** and in the **Contemporary Issues** category.

Search tips

1. Avoid using the long search phrases you use with Google searches. Try one or two keywords. Scan your results for a good match. Tap the link and look for a **list of subject links** on the next page. Tap the one that best matches your topic to focus your search and find more articles.

2. Use the **filters** on the search results page to customize your search by date, subject, source (magazine, newspaper, academic journal), type of resource, scholarly or peer-reviewed articles, etc.

3. Does the article include **references**? You may be able to find some of these articles in library databases! Click the **Journal Finder** tab on the home page to see which database includes the source.

Questions & answers

Can I search databases when I'm at home? Yes! Just enter your **MEID and password** to log in.

How do I cite database articles? Most of the Library's databases offer MLA and APA citations. *Tip: These citations are machine-generated. Carefully check them to be certain they meet your instructor's citation preferences.*

Need help searching library databases?

Ask a Librarian 24/7 chat — Look for the chat box on the right side of the Library's home page.

Call a librarian at one of the Reference Desks

623-845-3112 (Main)   or   **623-888-7112** (North)