Cause / Effect Research

Image: edilerre.com

Finding articles in library databases

Start at **lib.gccaz.edu/lmc**, which is the Library's home page.

Click on **Library Databases**, located to the left of the search box.

Select one of the 23 subject categories on the **Databases by Subject** page. The first two categories, **General/All Subjects** or **General Reference,** are a good place to start.

Select a database. Try **MasterFILE Premier** for general magazine articles and **Gale Virtual Reference Library** and **Credo Reference** for informative articles from subject encyclopedias.

Databases by Subject

Databases by Subject

General / All Subjects
Academic Search Complete
MasterFILE Premier
GALE PowerSearch (Gateway)
JSTOR
Project Muse
EBSCOhost (Gateway)
Films On Demand
Show More...

General Reference
Gale Virtual Reference Library
Credo Reference
Global Road Warrior
National Geographic Virtual Library
Show More...

If you're not using a campus computer, log in with your MEID.

Enter your search terms. Avoid using the longer phrases we often do with Google searching. Choose one to three search terms. If you're not satisfied with your results, consider the words that the perfect article would include and search them. Use the limiters the database provides to narrow your results by publication date, type of resource, length of article, etc.

Did you find an article you can use? Need to cite it? Most databases offer machine-generated citations, which often have errors. **Be sure to carefully check these citations for accuracy!**

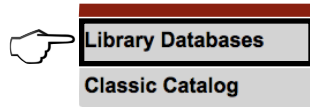# Execute Plan B

Want to search more databases?

If your topic has been in the news, try the **News** category.

Explore the databases in the **Contemporary Issues** category, especially **Opposing Viewpoints** and **Current Controversies**. Although these databases are usually used for argumentative research projects, they provide background information about current issues.

Which of the 23 subject headings on the **Databases by Subject** page best match your topic? Search the databases in that subject area.
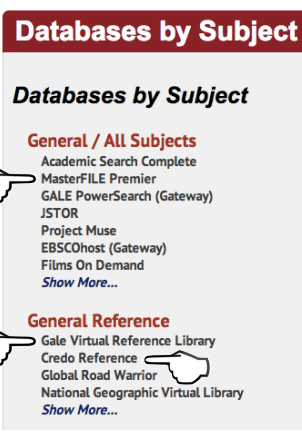
Learn the lingo

On Jan. 1, 2019, the Global Language Monitor estimated the number of words in the English language was **1,052,010.5**. *(.5?!)* English is a rich language with LOTS of synonyms. These synonyms may be used for the words **cause** and **effect**:

- **Cause** — reason, action, root, origin, source, motive, basis, generate, trigger, provoke, bring about, effect *(verb)*, etiology *(medical)*, etc.

- **Effect** — result, outcome, response, consequence, conclusion, upshot, impact, ramification, aftermath, reaction, etc.

Practice searching for cause & effect topics

Do you already have a cause and effect research topic? If so, use it for this practice exercise.

If you don't have a topic yet, try one of these:

- Popularity of online shopping
- Cost of college textbooks
- Digital piracy
- Grade inflation in college
- Football players and concussions
- College graduation rates among women
- Financing new sports stadiums

Which topic did you choose?: _____

Search MasterFILE Premier:

1. Find an article about your research topic.

2. Which does it discuss? Cause   Effect   Both

3. What is the most important cause or effect mentioned in the article?_____

   _____

4. Can you identify a relevant subject? Yes   No

5. If you answered yes, what is it?

   _____

6. Click on the subject heading. How many results did you have before? _____   After?_____

7. Provide the following information for the most relevant article you found:

   Author: _____

   Article title: _____

   _____

   Publication: _____

   Date: _____

8. Is citation assistance available? Yes   No

Your name: _____

Search Credo Reference OR GVRL:

9. Database you selected: _____

10. Find an article about your research topic.

11. Which does it discuss? Cause   Effect   Both

12. What is the most important cause or effect mentioned in the article?_____

   _____

13. Provide the following information for the most relevant article you found:

   Author: _____

   Article title: _____

   _____

   Publication: _____

   Date: _____

14. Is citation assistance available? Yes   No

Search Opposing Viewpoints OR Issues and Controversies OR a database of your choice:

15. Database you selected: _____

16. Find an articles about your research topic.

17. Which does it discuss? Cause   Effect   Both

18. What is the most important cause/effect mentioned in the article?_____

   _____

19. Provide the following information for the most relevant article you found:

   Author: _____

   Article title: _____

   _____

   Publication: _____

   Date: _____

20. Is citation assistance available? Yes   No