Activity: Database Speed Dating

# PART A: Choosing a Database by Subject

**Directions**

* Write down your research topic.
* Go to the Database by Subject list, (Library Homepage > Find > Articles & Research Databases > By Subject).
* Identify the subject area(s) you think your topic falls under.
* Choose one (1) databases you think would be useful for your topic.
* Use the same keywords/combination to search in each database to compare results.

NOTE: make sure to use the exact same search in each database so you can compare.

**Your research topic:**

**Subject area (from list of Databases by subject):**

**The database I chose is:**

**What subject area(s) does it cover?**(If you are unsure check the information button next to the database title at <http://www.lib.montana.edu/resources/titles.php>)

**What date range does it cover? (**Check to see what the oldest available content is, and the most recent. Some databases may go back decades, some may be more recent.)

**What type of material does it cover?**(Does this database contain scholarly journal articles, magazine and newspaper articles, book chapters, conference papers, data, images, or personal papers? Anything else?)

**Geographic limits?**(Does the database cover international content, or is it limited? Does it cover a specific geographic area?)

# Part B: Database Pros and Cons

**Directions**:

* Go to the Database by Subject list, (Library Homepage > Find > Articles & Research Databases > By Subject)
* Choose a subject that you think your first database fits under
* Choose two (2) additional databases under that subject, and compare them to your first database

**Database #1:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Pros:**

1.
2.
3.

**Cons:**

1.
2.

**Database #2:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Pros:**

1.
2.
3.

**Cons:**

1.
2.

**Database #3:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Pros:**

1.
2.
3.

**Cons:**

1.
2.

# Part C: Comparing Databases

**Directions:**

* Go to the Database by Subject list (Library Homepage > Find > Articles & Research Databases > By Subject)
* Open three (3) databases you think would be useful for your topic.
* Use the same keywords/combination to search in each database to compare results.

NOTE: make sure to use the exact same search in each database so you can compare.

**Keyword combination used to search in all three (3) databases:**

**Name of Database #1: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Number of search results:**

Overall rating: 1 2 3 4 5

Easy to search: 1 2 3 4 5

Easy to limit results 1 2 3 4 5

Useful limiters/filters (e.g. subject, date, etc.):

Relevant results: (article titles, authors, etc.):

**Name of Database #2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Number of search results:**

Overall rating: 1 2 3 4 5

Easy to search: 1 2 3 4 5

Easy to limit results 1 2 3 4 5

Useful limiters/filters (e.g. subject, date, etc.):

Relevant results: (article titles, authors, etc.):

**Name of Database #3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Total Number of search results:**

Overall rating: 1 2 3 4 5

Easy to search: 1 2 3 4 5

Easy to limit results 1 2 3 4 5

Useful limiters/filters (e.g. subject, date, etc.):

Relevant results: (article titles, authors, etc.): W**hich database do you prefer overall? Why?**