

University of Adelaide Library

Podcast 2: Make Databases your friend



Welcome to the University of Adelaide podcast series this is podcast number 2. In this we will be discussing the benefits of going beyond Google and your reading list.

U: Hi, my name is Ursula

R:.. and I'm Rebecca

U: and we're staff members of the Barr Smith Library.

R: today we're going to have a chat about going beyond Google and the resources that are listed on your Reading list.

U. What? You mean I have to go find something myself? And not use Google?

R: That's right... but don't worry, it's actually a lot easier than you think. I think we need a topic to use to demonstrate.... What about Internet fraud?

U. Ooh – that sound good. We will get loads of hits on that.. So if I type in Internet Fraud in my best friend Google... I get oh 1 million, 420 thousand hits, give or take a couple of thousand. I really don't think I want to look through all of these!

R: I wouldn't either. And this is where it is easy to see why a library database is so much better.

U. Ok – but what is a database?

R: A database is a collection of information, including articles from magazines, newspapers, conference reports and journals, which you can search a lot like you do Google.. They can be general, or subject specific, and mostly include academically approved or good quality information. This makes your job SO MUCH EASIER as the dodgy stuff is weeded out for you.

U. That actually sounds really good. But where do I start and how do I access a database and how do I know which one to use?

R: I'm glad you asked! It so happens that the Resource Guides on the Library website list the best databases for your subject, so you don't have to hunt around for them! Let's go have a look at the Resource guide for Business and see if we can find some better information on Internet fraud.

U: So I'm going to head to the resource guide for business ... Ok this one looks good... How about I try searching "Academic Search Premier" – according to the tag line it covers "virtually every area of academic research" which sounds perfect!. Ok, so I've gone into the database and typed in the same as I did for Google. And here goes....

... and I've found 718 results – and they actually look good! The first one is "An Analysis of Fraud on the Internet" – and I can read the full article online! This is just great I can even email to myself!

R: See! Making databases your friend means that you're not wasting hours clicking through millions of dodgy search results on Google.

U: Yeah, it wasn't any harder than using Google, and I get much better information.

R: And that's just the start of it. All of the library databases have loads of options to help you find the information you need. To find out more, have a chat to your research librarian or ask at the Research Help Desk.

U. And by finding my own information, beyond the reading list, I'll get to impress my lecturer, hopefully get a high distinction, and may even learn something new along the way.

R: thanks for listening – see you next time!

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