

Databases

What is a database?

A database is a collection of information that has been organized for the user. There are many different kinds of databases. The ones we are most interested in are called educational research based databases. These include collections of newspapers, magazines, reference materials, pictures, maps, charts, graphs and other types of resources.

How is a database different from a Website?

Today most research databases are found by using a website. However, the database itself is not a website but a collection of information that has been put together in order for students to do research. Once the user is on the website that allows them access, he/she logs into the database with a username and password. Inside the database, the user can search for information that is found only within that collection.

A database assures you that the information you receive is credible, reliable and has been edited and published in a reputable source. Databases are not free information. Someone, in this case, Miami-Dade County Public Schools, pays for the right to access this information. This is why you need a password and username. Many times the information found in databases has also been published in print format in a book or periodical. When the information exists in print format, the user can find the exact publication title, copyright date and page number.

Facts on File <http://www.fofweb.com/subscription>

Find resources such as:

American History Online
African-American History & Culture
American Women's History
World History Online
Ancient History & Culture
Science Online
Health Reference Center
Curriculum Resource Center
The World Atlas
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GaleNet <http://infotrac.galegroup.com>

Find resources such as:

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Biographies
Topical essays
200 magazines
10,000 illustrations
8 hours of audio & video clips
Student Resource Center
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SIRS Knowledge Source <http://sks.sirs.com>

Find resources such as:

Go to **SIRS Government Reporter** for information concerning:

- Elected leaders
- Federal departments
- Federal agencies
- Current and historic documents
- Landmark and recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions,

Go to **SIRS Renaissance** for information concerning: current perspectives on the arts and humanities

Go to **SIRS Researcher** for information concerning: full text articles exploring social, scientific, health, historic, business, economic, political & global issues

WorldBook Online Reference Center

<http://www.worldbookonline.com/wb/Login?ed=wb>

Includes all of the articles from the World Book Encyclopedia, our Spanish Language Encyclopedia, correlations to Florida teaching standards, and an extensive interactive dictionary and atlas.

Also included is World Book Kids, designed for primary scholars with thousands of easy-to-read articles, a wealth of hands-on activities to engage different types of learners, and teacher resources.

Additionally, the World Book Research Libraries offers a broad collection of historically important documents as well as e-book versions of classic literature.

These databases can be accessed at home or school. Use the username and password provided by Ms. Carmel.