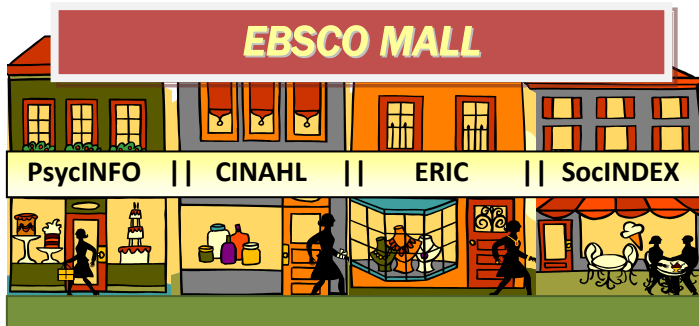


Using the Databases – A Shopping Analogy

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You need to go “shopping” for some articles for your research paper. A friend recommends using EBSCO. EBSCO supplies many (but not all!) of the databases at Foley Library.



Think of EBSCO as the name of a shopping mall. The databases in EBSCO are like stores in a mall and just like stores in a mall, many databases specialize in one thing like Education (ERIC) or nursing (CINAHL). Some offer unique items, but you may also find the same article in more than one database.

FIND WHAT YOU WANT

STORE

- Browse aimlessly
- Make a beeline for the shoes
- Limit your search to a brand or style
- Can't find the shoes? Look for a sign.
- Ask a Sales Associate for help

DATABASE

- Browse aimlessly
- Search for articles using keywords or descriptors
- Add another keyword or descriptor
- Use the Thesaurus or Subject Headings
- Ask a Librarian for help

MAKE YOUR SELECTIONS



Ever buy something just because it looked good in the store, but when you get it home, you discover it doesn't really fit? Smart shoppers take a good look at the item. They notice things like construction, quality and price.

Smart researchers always read the abstract of an article to determine its value to their research. They notice things like the type of study conducted, the language the article is written in and whether it is a peer reviewed article, a book chapter or a book review.

STORE – Make a selection and place the item in a shopping cart.

DATABASE – Make a selection and place the item in a folder.



FINISHED SHOPPING/SEARCHING



STORE – Pay for the items in your cart and take them to your car.

DATABASE - E-mail your folder contents to yourself or export them to RefWorks.

AT HOME

STORE – Put your newly purchased items away in closets, cupboards or drawers. Of course, you could just pile them on the kitchen table, instead.

DATABASE – Go into your RefWorks account and put your newly found article records into folders. Of course, you could just pile them into the *Items Not in a Folder* folder in RefWorks, instead.

MORE SHOPPING / DATABASE ANALOGIES

STORE	DATABASE
You put your selected items on layaway to pick up later.	You register for a MyEBSCOhost account and store items there.
The store had exactly what you wanted in exactly the right size and it was free!	You found a perfect article and the database you were searching in had it in full text!
You found what you wanted, but the store doesn't have it in stock. You go to the service desk and find that you can get it from another store across town.	You found what you wanted, but the database doesn't have it in full-text. You click on the Full Text Options link and find that you can get it in full-text from another database.
None of the stores in town have the item you want in stock. You will have to order it.	None of the databases at Foley have the article in full-text. You will have to request it through ILLiad.
You can't find exactly what you are looking for in the mall, so you go to town and look in a few other stores outside of the mall.	You can't find exactly what you are looking for in the EBSCO databases, so you go to Foley Library and look in a few other databases outside of EBSCO.
Getting the best quality shoes isn't important, so you go to Wal-Mart.	Getting the best quality information isn't important, so you go to Google.
You've had a long hard day of shopping. Treat yourself to some ice cream!	You've had a long hard day of searching. Treat yourself to some ice cream!

