# **Library Databases**



### **Internet Search Engines**



## **Types of Information Retrieved**

- Scholarly journal articles
- Popular magazine articles
- Newspaper articles
- Reference book articles (e.g., directories, encyclopedias)
- Books
- No sponsors or ads

- **Few free** scholarly journal articles and books.
- Popular web sites (e.g., Wikipedia, Facebook)
- Commercial web sites (e.g., <u>eBay</u>, <u>Amazon</u>)
- Educational web sites (e.g., AHS, BYU)
- Government & Organizational web sites
- Statistics (e.g., <u>U.S. Census Bureau</u>)
- Current news & information (e.g., <u>CNN</u>)
- Email, chat
- *Many* sponsors and ads.

#### When to Use

- Best for college level research.
- When you need to find credible information quickly.
- Best for personal information needs including shopping and entertainment.
- When you have time to more carefully evaluate information found on the open web.

### **Creditability / Review Process**

- Articles and books written by journalists or experts in a professional field.
- All material in <u>database</u> is evaluated for accuracy and credibility by subject experts and publishers.
- Reviewed and updated regularly.

- Lack of control allows *anybody* to publish his or her opinions and ideas on the **Internet**.
- Not evaluated (for the most part). Need to more carefully evaluate web sites for bias, accuracy, and completeness.
- Many sites are not updated regularly and can become outdated.

### Cost / Accessibility

- <u>Library database subscriptions</u> are paid for through your tuition and state taxes.
- To access the Canyons School District <u>Library</u> <u>databases</u> from off-campus, you will need to logon to pioneer.uen.org with the username *pioneer* and password.
- Most information found through a <u>search engine</u> is free
- <u>Library databases</u> cannot be accessed through <u>search engines</u> or the <u>open web</u>.
- Many web sites found through Internet search engines contain *licensed*, *proprietary* information and require you to logon with a user account. You must already be a member or pay for a subscription in order to access the material from these web sites.

#### **Usability**

- The organization and various search capabilities of <u>library databases</u> allow users to search for and retrieve focused and relevant results.
- Thousands, sometimes millions of hits, much of the same information repackaged or duplicated.
- Less ability to search for and retrieve precise results using search engines like <u>Google</u>. Need to wade through a "grab bag" of results.
- <u>Dozens to hundreds of hits</u>—a more manageable number, and duplicates can be filtered out.

#### Constancy / Permanence / Stability

- *Published* content from journals, magazines, newspapers and books does not change.
- Most material remains in <u>database</u> for a significant length of time and can be easily retrieved again.
- Web site content can often change.
- Web pages and sites may disappear for a number of reasons. May not be able to retrieve the same content at a later time.

## Citing

- Many <u>databases</u> include a *citation tool* that will automatically generate an APA or MLA style reference for the article you select. You may still need to "tweak" this citation but these tools serve as a good starting point for citing your articles in a particular format.
- Most web sites found on the open web do not provide a citation tool or an already formatted APA or MLA style reference for the web pages on their site. You will need to start your citation from scratch using APA or MLA style manuals or handouts from your instructor or the library.