

# I-Search: Search Tips for LRC Databases

## Encyclopedia

- Reliable resource
- Provides a brief, general overview of topic
- Provides correct spellings
- Offers additional keywords

## Encyclopedia Britannica

- One of the most authoritative online encyclopedias
- Has three databases: (1) encyclopedia, (2) Internet guide, (3) dictionary
- “Restrict Your Search” – Click on this link to combine keywords (example: “child abuse”)
- “Index Entries” – Click on this link for additional keywords
- “Related Topics” – Click on this link to find similar/related topics and issues
- Click “Format to Print” before printing.
- Look at the “Citation Example” when you write your Works Cited page.

## SIRS

- Full-text magazine, newspaper, journal articles on social issues, government, the arts, science, health, technology
- Reliable resource
- Has three databases: (1) Researcher, (2) Government, (3) Renaissance
- If you conduct a “Quick Search,” click on “Subject Headings.” If you do not find your topic, go back and click on “Keyword Search.”
- If you conduct an “Advanced Search,” enter one keyword or key phrase per line. The database will find articles that include *all* of these words.  
Example:        *bullying*  
                      *And United States*  
                      *And schools*
- You can sort the list of articles by “date” or “relevance.”
- “Descriptors” icon = key words

## EBSCO

- Full-text magazine, newspaper, and journal articles.
- Includes health and education databases.
- Don’t click on “Topic Browse.”
- Click on “EBSCO Host – Click here for databases.”
- Choose your databases and click “Enter.”
- Always click the “Full-Text” box.
- Click “Print,” then click “Estimate number of pages” to determine the length of the article.

## Electric Library

- Full-text magazine and newspaper articles, books, pictures, maps, and TV/radio transcripts.
- “Natural Language Search” allows you to ask a question. Example: How do I pitch a baseball?
- “Boolean Search” combines terms with the word “and.” Use “and” to narrow your search. Example: Simpsons and cartoon  
This search tells the computer to find articles with both words.

#### **Newsbank Infoweb (Chicago Tribune & News Illinois)**

- Provides free, full-text articles dating back two years.
- Put terms in quotation marks. Example: “airport security”
- Sort results by *date* or *relevancy*.
- Allows you to limit searching by specific dates.
- “Customized Search” allows you to look for keywords in the headline/title, first paragraph, author, edition, caption, or anywhere in the text.

#### **Matter of Fact**

- Statistics
- Not full-text, contains *excerpts* only.

#### **www.bigchalk.com**

- Links to web sites evaluated by teachers and librarians for accuracy and quality.
- Contains articles from World Book Encyclopedia.
- Beware: Does *not* allow you to conduct a Boolean search. Example: If you search for “teenagers and smoking,” the site will retrieve *any* web sites about teenagers and *any* websites about smoking.