

# Searching Databases

## Key Points

### Definition

- a database is an organized collection of information. Generally, when we refer to a database we mean one that indexes articles in journals.
- Each article in each journal is analyzed by the editors and a record is created that includes the title of the article, author of the article, journal title, volume, issue and page number of the article. Each record also lists the topics covered by the article. For example,

Title: A Qualitative Study of Adaptation Experiences of 1.5-Generation Asian Americans  
Author: Kim, Bryan S K; Brenner, Bradley R; Liang, Christopher T H; Asay, Penelope A  
Source: Cultural Diversity & Ethnic Minority Psychology, 2003, 9, 2, May, 156-170  
Abstract: Adaptation experiences of 1.5-generation Asian American college students (N = 10) were examined using the consensual qualitative research method . Results indicated 4 domains of adaptation experiences: preimmigration experiences, acculturation, & enculturation experiences, intercultural relationships, & support systems. 1 Table, 27 References.  
Language: English  
Descriptors: Asian Americans; College Students; Acculturation ; Adjustment; Racism; Immigrants; Immigration

### Access

- link to the Databases web page - <http://www.library.dal.ca/databases/dbases.htm> then
- type in the title of a specific database OR
- look at an alphabetical list OR
- look at a list of databases arranged by discipline

### Process

- choose a database from the Databases web page
- link to the database
- enter your keywords
  - use boolean operators
  - specify a particular field
  - limit by date or language
- scan the results and determine if you need to refine your search strategy
- select relevant articles and note the citation information
- locate the article by searching Novanet for the journal title or, when available, link to the full-text of the article from the database

**NOTE:** the modules on Journal Articles and Search Strategies provide detailed information on how to construct a search strategy and then locate the articles.

### Things to keep in mind

- databases are created by commercial vendors
- databases cost money to subscribe to; the library pays that money
- databases index all of the important journals in a field
- the library will not necessarily have all of those journals in their collection
- not all databases provide the full-text of the articles

September 1, 2005