

# MUHS Research Databases vs. Google

	<b>Research Databases</b>	<b>Google</b>
<b>Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Newspaper or magazine articles, entries from books, information from reliable websites</li> <li>➤ Secondary information that has appeared in other sources first</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Anything imaginable</li> <li>➤ High percentage of information without deep archives, not updated regularly, and may be created by questionable sources</li> </ul>
<b>Author</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Articles are authored.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Articles can be written by anyone</li> </ul>
<b>Maintenance of the Information</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Many databases update their information weekly or even daily</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Upkeep varies from site to site</li> </ul>
<b>Searchability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Most databases offer a basic and advanced search</li> <li>➤ Many databases allow you to limit your search by date, full-text or peer reviewed</li> <li>➤ Fully indexed which offers you better access to the information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Keyword searching</li> <li>➤ Partially indexed, most information is buried to deep to be found with most popular search engines</li> </ul>
<b>When to Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Scholarly information that appears in journals, newspapers, books or encyclopedias</li> <li>➤ Historical information</li> <li>➤ Objective information</li> <li>➤ Reliable information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ A specific web site</li> <li>➤ Information that is unique and hard to find</li> <li>➤ Information on colleges, museums, and non-profit organizations or companies</li> <li>➤ Government information such as tax forms, bills, laws, or proclamations</li> <li>➤ Late breaking news</li> <li>➤ Pictures or images</li> <li>➤ Extreme points of view</li> <li>➤ Make a purchase from a song to a car</li> <li>➤ Latest chat room discussion or blog site</li> </ul>
<b>Cost</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Subscription/licenses vary in price. The databases available through Doerr Library cost between \$300 and \$10,000 per year.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Cost of Internet Access</li> <li>➤ Most sites start by providing some free information and then require you to pay for additional information.</li> </ul>

Adapted from: "Library & Information Systems, Databases vs. the Web" <http://www.williamwoods.edu/ULIS/tipsheets/webvsdb.htm>

"The Internet vs. Databases"-Trenton Public Library [http://www.trenton.lib.nj.us/internet\\_db.htm](http://www.trenton.lib.nj.us/internet_db.htm)

Additional information sources: The Internet or traditional online – when to use each one" by Mary Ellen Bates. *Internet '98*. Retrieved 10/16/03

"Free online web searching tutorial" The Oxford Knowledge Company. Retrieved 10/16/03

Module 1, pg 12, 14, & 15. Retrieved 09/03/03 from <http://www.wmich.edu/library/searchpath/index.html>