

Seven Steps to a Successful Search

1. Determine the question:
 - What are you trying to find out?
 - What will you do with the information?
 - What type of material do you need (article, book, citation, full-text)?
2. Do some initial research on your question:
 - What is it?
 - Where does it come from?
 - When/ where did it happen?
 - How do you spell it?
3. Select the appropriate database:
 - Know what the data base contains
 - Learn basics of use (truncation symbols, thesaurus, Boolean logic)
4. Develop a search strategy:
 - Search broad to narrow
 - Use thesaurus (if provided)
 - Consider alternate terms
5. Search!
6. Evaluate the results – search again if necessary.
7. Prepare the results - document the search:
 - Source used
 - Search terms
 - Results

Finding Other Databases

- Public Libraries
- Library of Congress – Databases and E-Resources
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/ElectronicResources/dbs.php>
- Universities
 - Northwestern University Library – Electronic Resources
<http://er.library.northwestern.edu/>
 - University of Chicago Library
<http://www1.lib.uchicago.edu/index.php3>
 - University of Illinois – Chicago
<http://www.uic.edu/depts/lib/>
 - Dominican University
<http://domweb.dom.edu/library/Crown/Articles/masterlist.htm>
- Vendors
 - ProQuest
<http://www.proquest.com/>
 - EBSCO Publishing
<http://www.epnet.com>
 - H.W. Wilson
<http://www.hwwilson.com/>

TRY-IT! ILLINOIS DATABASE TRIAL

The eighth annual Try-It! Illinois database trial, sponsored by Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White and the Illinois State Library, launches this Monday **October 1** and runs **through November 30**. Try-It! Illinois offers the 5,000+ ILLINET member libraries, their staffs and their communities-library users, customers, clients, faculty, students, and boards--a wonderful opportunity to survey and evaluate a wide variety of electronic resources

Try-It! Illinois will be available at: <http://www.eliillinois.org/tryit/>

Digital Libraries

NYPL Digital Gallery

Provides access to over 450,000 images digitized from primary sources and printed rarities in the collections of The New York Public Library, including illuminated manuscripts, historical maps, vintage posters, rare prints and photographs, illustrated books, printed ephemera, and more
<http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/index.cfm>

Library of Congress – American Memory

American Memory provides free and open access through the Internet to written and spoken words, sound recordings, still and moving images, prints, maps, and sheet music that document the American experience. It is a digital record of American history and creativity.
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/index.html>

The Newberry Library Digital Collection

The CARLI Digital Collections was established in 2006 as a repository for digital content licensed or created by the member libraries of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI). <http://collections.carli.illinois.edu/index.php>

Internet Starting Places

Internet Tutorials

A MUST-READ! All tutorials are maintained by Laura Cohen, Web Support Librarian, University at Albany, SUNY.

<http://www.internettutorials.net/>

The Internet Public Library

The Internet Public Library (IPL), is a public service organization and learning/teaching environment at the University of Michigan School of Information.

<http://www.ipl.org/>

Illinois CLICKS!

Citizens' Library of Illinois Comprehensive Knowledge Service -- an anywhere, anytime information portal created and maintained by librarians statewide.

<http://www.illinoisclicks.org>

refdesk.com

Refdesk has three goals: (1) fast access, (2) intuitive and easy navigation and (3) comprehensive content, rationally indexed.

<http://www.refdesk.com>

Librarians' Internet Index

Librarians' Internet Index (LII) is a publicly-funded website and weekly newsletter serving California, Washington state, the nation, and the world.

<http://www.lii.org/>

Chicago Public Library – Selected Internet Sources

The Internet sites listed are recommended by librarians at the Chicago Public Library and are selected based on their quality and utility in answering common questions asked at CPL reference desks.

<http://www.chipublib.org/008subject/008subject.html>

FindArticles

FindArticles has articles from thousands of resources, with archives dating back to 1984. That means you get to search for exactly what you need, from millions of articles not found on any other search engine.

<http://www.findarticles.com>

INFOMINE

A virtual library of Internet resources relevant to faculty, students, and research staff at the university level. It contains useful Internet resources such as databases, electronic journals, electronic books, bulletin boards, mailing lists, online library card catalogs, articles, directories of researchers, and many other types of information.

<http://infomine.ucr.edu/>