

## How is a Library Research Database Different From a Website?

### ORGANIZED

*Databases* are organized so information is easy to find. You can search by different criteria and adapt your search to find fewer or more results. *Websites* are typically formatted for browsing so users must read through information before finding what they need.

### RELIABLE

*Databases* are checked for accuracy by publishers and evaluated for quality by librarians. *Website* quality varies greatly and content can be based on opinions, not facts.

### STABLE

*Databases* maintain their content over time and most material can be retrieved again easily. They are simpler to cite in bibliographies and may even create citations for you. *Website* content can change regularly or vanish completely, and does not always provide enough information to create complete citations.

### TRUSTWORTHY

*Databases* get information from experts in the subject field. *Websites* can be written by anyone.

### UP-TO-DATE

*Databases* are updated frequently and include the date of publication. *Websites* may or may not provide dates or contain current information.

## What Are SAILOR Research Databases?

Funded by the State of Maryland, SAILOR resources complement the diverse electronic collections provided by your local library system. Available to all Maryland public library customers, SAILOR databases can help you learn a new language, research business opportunities, identify your ancestors, fix your car, pursue a hobby, do your homework, and so much more.

The SAILOR research databases are:

- Selected to ensure equal access to a core collection of online reference and research materials from quality sources
- Accessible from any computer at your local library, or from home with a valid library card
- FREE to all Maryland public library customers at [sailor.lib.md.us/services/databases/](http://sailor.lib.md.us/services/databases/)



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## What is SAILOR?

SAILOR is Maryland's Public Information Network, providing broadband Internet access for public libraries, schools, and local governments. Online access is enhanced by a core collection of research databases for use by Maryland public library customers and K-12 students.

SAILOR dates back to 1989, and grew out of Maryland public libraries' recognition that the future of meeting customer information needs depended on the capacity to deliver resources and services beyond the walls of their buildings. In the process of collaborating on this effort, libraries developed a statewide broadband network to deliver electronic access to materials. First launched in 1994, the SAILOR Network has been providing research databases since 1996, and continues to be a notable example of Maryland public libraries' ability to cooperate in pursuit of visionary goals.



## Research Databases Funded By SAILOR:

- Auto Repair Reference Center
- Business Source Premier
- Explora Educator's Edition
- Explora Primary & Secondary Schools
- Explora Public Libraries
- Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia
- HeritageQuest Online
- History Reference Center
- Hobbies & Crafts Reference Center
- Home Improvement Reference Center
- Regional Business News
- Rosetta Stone Library Solution
- Science Reference Center
- Small Engine Repair Reference Center

## What is a Research Database?

- Databases contain information from published works such as books, magazines & newspapers
- Databases are indexed & searchable by subject, author, title, keyword, and many other terms
- Databases document their sources and provide references so you can cite your research
- Databases contain abstracts, full-text articles, books or book chapters, reviews, reports, charts, diagrams, audio and video files, etc.
- Databases can be costly; however SAILOR is funded by the State of Maryland

## How to Access SAILOR Research Databases:

1. Go to [sailor.lib.md.us/services/databases/](http://sailor.lib.md.us/services/databases/)



2. Click on any database name or logo



3. Choose your local library system's name from the drop-down box

