Elementary & High School Student Databases

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What Elementary & High School Student Databases are available?

Wayne State College has access to three EBSCOhost databases for the elementary and high school audience:

- **Primary Search** - designed specifically for elementary school libraries and public library children’s rooms, contains full text for nearly 70 popular, elementary school magazines. All full text articles are assigned a reading level indicator (Lexiles). In addition to the full text, this database offers indexing and abstracts for nearly 100 magazines. Examples of publications covered in Primary Search include: Appleseeds, Boys’ Life, Cobblestone, Cricket, Highlights for Children, Hopscotch, Jack & Jill, Ladybug, Ranger Rick, Science World, Spider, SuperScience, Time for Kids, Turtle, and many more. This database also provides the *American Heritage Children’s Dictionary*, 3rd Edition from Houghton Mifflin, and an Image Collection of 285,912 photos, maps and flags. Many full text titles are available in native (searchable) PDF, or scanned-in-color. Full text backfiles go as far back as 1990, while indexing and abstract backfiles go as far back as 1985 (March 2008).

- **EBSCO’s Encyclopedia of Animals** (EBSCO Aminals) - offers in-depth information on a variety of topics relating to animals. The database consists of indexing, abstracts, and full text records describing the nature and habitat of familiar animals. Within some of the full text, image links are available for the Windows client. Images are accessed by double-clicking any image graphic (March 2008).

How do I access each of the Elementary & High School Student databases?

1. Go to the homepage of the WSC Library at http://academic.wsc.edu/conn_library/ and select Academic Search Premier or any of the other EBSCOhost databases under “Find Journal Articles.”

2. From the database drop-down menu, deselect the database you have just entered.

3. Then select either Primary Search, EBSCO Animals, or MAS Ultra.

4. Select Submit.
How do I perform a basic search?

1. Basic searches can be completed on the Basic Search tab. Start by entering a keyword into the Search Term box. Then select “Search.”

2. Take a look at the number of results. If you have a larger number, you may want to try narrowing your topic. Suggested narrowed topics are listed on the left hand side. These topics are subject heading. This means that they locate only records where those topics are a central part of the article.

3. Once selected, the results will combine the subject with the original keyword, resulting in a smaller list and a new subject list. You can continue reducing your results in this way.

As you narrow, the database will also show you where you’ve been. Also, the label “DE” with the subject in quotes behind it will always appear in the find box when you choose a subject from the list.
4. If you have a better idea of what you are searching for, try combining other terms when you start the search. Use **AND**.

Examples:
- short stories and cats
- short stories and pets
- cats and behavior

Your results will be more specific; and the subject narrowing list may be more helpful.

5. If your results are too narrow or you’d like slightly different results, try expanding it with synonyms. Use **OR with parenthesis**.

Examples:
- (cats or dogs) and short stories
- (cats or dogs or pets) and short stories
- cats and (behaviors or manners)
- (cats or dogs) and (behaviors or manners)

6. Once you have a list of results you like. Take a look at the type of results included. You can further sort your list by these types.
How do I perform more advanced searches?

1. Start by selecting the Advanced Search tab.

2. You’ll have multiple search boxes and the ability to limit keywords you enter by various fields such as Author, Title, Subject, etc. The advanced search screen also allows you to access to your search history.
3. You can further refine your search by selecting the **Refine Search** Tab.

Pay special attention to the *Lexile Reading Level* when looking for materials for students.

You’ll also want to note the *Peer Reviewed* checkbox.
4. *Parentheses* also may be used to control a search query.

**Generalized Search:**

**dog or cat and show or parade**

The search will retrieve everything on dog or cat shows *as well as* everything on parades, whether or not the articles refer to dogs or cats.

**Focused Search:**

**(dog or cat) and (show or parade)**

The parentheses controls the query to only find articles about shows or parades that reference dogs or cats.

5. You may want to consider using some additional search operators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>question mark (?)</td>
<td>To use the wildcard, enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?. Database will find all citations of that word with the ? replaced by a letter.</td>
<td>ne?t to find all citations containing neat, nest or next.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>asterisk (*)</td>
<td>To use truncation, enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an *. Database will find all forms of that word.</td>
<td>comput* to find the words computer or computing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Near Operator (N)</td>
<td>N5 finds the words if they are within five words of one another regardless of the order in which they appear</td>
<td>tax N5 reform to find tax reform as well as reform of income tax.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Within Operator (W)</td>
<td>W8 finds the words if they are within eight words of one another and <em>in the order in which you entered them.</em></td>
<td>tax W8 reform to find results that would match tax reform but would not match reform of income tax.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What if I need help with a topic or I’m not sure what keywords to use?

Choosing a topic and figuring out what keywords to use can be difficult. However, there are tools in Primary Search and MAS Ultra to help you.

1. Select Subject in the green bar above the search box.

2. Type a subject into the Browse entry blank and select the Browse button.
3. A list of subjects starting with that keyword or equivalent to that keyword will appear. These are the keywords that the database uses.

Under each subject, a list of reference types and the number of items for that type is listed.

Major categories will also have additional links to explore narrower terms or related terms.

Just click on one of them to see additional subjects.

Then click on a link to access the references for that subject.
How do I view previous results and combine them with new searches?

Go to the Search History/Alerts tab.

**WARNING:** This tab is only available in Advanced Search. If you perform a Basic Search, those searches will not appear.

1. Select the **Clear** button to remove everything from the search boxes.

2. Now, select the boxes next to the two searches we want to combine.

3. Finally, select **ADD**, making sure to use **AND** to combine the searches so that our results show items that have both topics in them and not only one.

4. The search box will now display the Search IDs by which we are searching. Select **Search**.
How do I view items in a particular publication?

1. *Primary Search* and *MAS Ultra* have a Publication list. Select **Publications**.

2. You can browse publications alphabetically, or search for one through the **Browse Publications** search box.

3. The result list will tell you the time frame for bibliographic records in the database as well as the time frame for full-text access in the database and the types of full-text available.

4. Just click on the title of the publication to access the publication.
5. The publication records will give you details about the publication. Then you can then choose a year, volume, and issue to examine.

6. The results list will display the issue in page order.
How do I find a definition?

1. *Primary Search* and *MAS Ultra* have a link to the *American Heritage Children's Dictionary* and the *American Heritage Dictionary* respectively. Just select Dictionary.

2. You can browse terms via alphabetical list or you can conduct a search using the name of the term via the *Browse for* field.

3. Now, click on the name of the term to access the dictionary.
4. If you want expanded information on the term, you can select the box next to it and choose Search.
How do I find an image?

1. *Primary Search* and *MAS Ultra* have an image collection. Just select *Images* to access it.

2. The *Images* screen allows you to search by images only. You can limit the search by *Photos of people*, *Historical photos*, *Natural science photos*, *Maps*, *Photos of places*, and *Flags*.

3. To search, just enter a keyword for an image and select *Search*. 
4. The result list will show a thumbnail of the image and some information about it. Just click on the image to see a larger version.

1. A waist-length photograph of Abraham Lincoln sitting down.
   © National Archives

2. PHOTOS, WORDS OF LINCOLN ON DISPLAY AT WHITE HOUSE-A later image of President Abraham Lincoln is shown during a rendition of "Lincoln: Seen and Heard," in the East Room of the White House on Feb. 12, 2005. This year marks the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12, 1809. Location: WASHINGTON State: DC United

1. Presents a map of Lincoln, Nebraska.
   © Copyright (c) GeoNova Publishing, Inc.

   © Department of the Interior

1. Lincoln's Cabin-The simple log cabin in which Lincoln was born in 1809. The cabin stands on the Kentucky River bank and is housed within a museum building. (Photo: 01/01/1890 -- Image Date: 01/01/1890)
   © Hulton Archive

2. The Lincoln Memorial -- Image Date: 25/06/1999 -- Image Date: 25/06/1999
   © Getty Images

3. The Lincoln Memorial -- Image Date: 27/06/1999 -- Image Date: 27/06/1999
   © Getty Images

4. "Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC" -- Image Date: 24/06/1999 -- Image Date: 24/06/1999
   © Getty Images
What is important about the EBSCO Animals citation?

1. Title & Link to Citation/Article
2. Link to Full Text
3. Link to Full Text with Photo
What is important about the Primary Search & MAS Ultra citations?

1. Title & Link to Citation
2. Author(s)
3. Publication Name
4. Publication Date, Volume, Issue & Page numbers
5. Reading Level
6. Availability Options
How do I access items from the Elementary & High School Student Databases?

Many EBSCOhost articles will have a PDF link at the bottom of the citation. All you have to do is select the link and the item will open on your screen for you to either print or save to your computer.

However, what do you do if there is no full-text link?

1. Select Journal Finder.

2. If the Journal Finder says, “0 records,” Wayne State does not have an electronic copy or a print copy of the journal. However, you can use Interlibrary Loan or Document Delivery to request the article from another library.

3. However, if it lists, “Wayne State College Print Holdings,” at least part of the journal is in print at WSC. On-campus students should check the link to see which volumes are available before going to the shelf in the Periodicals Room. If there are no other options, off-campus students can request a photocopy of the article through Document Delivery.

4. All other listings are online databases. If you see another EBSCOhost database such as Academic Search Premier or SOCIndex, or if you see Wilson OmniFile, select one of those first since they are the easiest to navigate.

In this example, we will select Wilson OmniFile for to find a 2007 article in National Geographic Kids.
5. *Wilson Omnifile* will open, listing the journal selected. Just scroll to the year and select the Volume and Issue Number.

6. Then just scroll to the article you want and select either a HTML or a PDF link to view it.