



Database Roundup: the View from the Cheap Seats

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Background

- Millennium ILS and OPAC implemented, 2008
 - Replaced DRA Classic
- Millennium ERM implemented, 2009
 - Replaced a variety of html pages, excel files, and manila folders



Some Government Resources

- Traditionally included in the Database A-Z list
 - Usually just the major resources
- The first deeplinks
 - The various subsets of PubMed
 - Driven by an observation from a member of the Nursing faculty

Why do I have to go to UT to use PubMed Nursing?



Underlying ideas for the population of ERM records

Users

- do not know the proper names of resources
- do not know what makes up a resource
- do not know what a resource can do
- do not know “free” from “fee”

So the ERM should

- use as many alternative names as necessary
- use deeplinks when relevant
- provide descriptions
- interfile licensed and open access resources



Snippet of the Old Databases A-Z List from the UofM

American Slavery: Collections at the Library of Congress	Open Access	Description	Login
American Song (includes African American Song)	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
American Religions: Encyclopaedia of (Part of the Gale Virtual Reference Library)	TM/R/ODP only	Description	
American Slavery: A Composite Annotated Bibliography	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
American Tapes: Oxford Encyclopedia of the (For off-campus access, link through Oxford Reference Online)	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
Animal Behavior Abstracts	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
Applied Science & Technology Full Text (Part of Wilson OmniFile Mega)	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
APS (American Physical Society) Journals and PROLA (Physical Review Online Archives)	TM Only	Description	Guide
Art Index Retrospective See also: Art Full Text (Part of Wilson OmniFile Mega)	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
Art Full Text See also: Art Index Retrospective (Part of Wilson OmniFile Mega)	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
Art Full Text and Art Index Retrospective Search both together	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
ArticleFirst	TM/R/ODP Only	Description	Guide
Arts and Humanities Citation Index , Part of Web of Science, part of Web of Knowledge (formerly ABI/INFORM)	TM Only	Description	Guide
ArXiv.org - Preprints in Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science and	Open Access	Description	Login

Its characteristics

- In HTML
- Required a clunky and hard-to-use HTML editor
- Required users to know what they wanted before they could find it
- Grew longer and longer



Search
UM Libraries

QuickSearch
(Books, videos, etc.)

Search Now

Additional Searches:
Articles
Journal Titles
Catalog Classic
Databases

On home page

The replacement, or what's available now

<http://www.memphis.edu/libraries/>

<http://bibliotech.memphis.edu/search-S4/y>

THE UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS University Libraries

Search the Library Catalog Catalog Classic

Keywords
Author
Title
Subject
Number
Advanced Search

Articles & Journals
Book/Serials
Databases
Journal Titles

My Library
My Library Account
Ask a Librarian
Comments
Recent Additions
Catalog Help

Course Reserves
Course Reserves
Reference Services
University Libraries
University of Memphis

Other Resources

MEMPHIS

Database
Database
Library Database Training

Type the name of the database you want, then click Submit:

Enter the name of a database:

Alphabetical list of databases:
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z A-Z

Databases by Academic Area or Category:
-- Please select a database subject or category -- [Browse all database subjects](#)

Multisearch Multidisciplinary Databases:
ABI/INFORM Global Search - Ebooks Search - Wilson OmniFile Mega Full Text - JSTOR - Project MUSE

In OPAC



Searching on a name takes users to a record with a connecting link

The screenshot shows the University of Memphis Library Catalog Classic interface. The search results for 'Thomas: Legislative Information' are displayed. The record includes the following information:

- Connect to:** Thomas: Legislative Information
- Database Name:** Thomas: Legislative Information
- Alternate Name:** Library of Congress Thomas
- Description:** Federal legislative information freely available to the public. Coverage: 1989-present.
- Database Subjects:** General Topics, Government, History, Law, Politics and Political Science
- Public Note:** A Library of Congress resource, Open access
- Database Type:** Full-Text Database
- Database Format:** HTML & PDF

The interface also features a search bar, navigation links, and a sidebar with various library services.

Assigned subject/concept terms allow users to retrieve lists

The screenshot shows the University of Memphis Library Catalog Classic interface with a dropdown menu of subject terms. The terms listed are:

- Employment
- Energy
- Engineering
- Environmental Science
- Ethics
- Ethnic Studies
- Finance
- Folklore
- Foreign Languages
- General Topics
- Geography (Human)
- Geography (Physical)
- Geology
- Government
- History
- Home Economics
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Humanities
- Images
- Language
- Language and Literature
- Latin American Studies
- Law
- Library Science
- Linguistics
- Literature
- Management
- Marine Biology
- Mathematics and Statistical Methods
- Medicine and Health

The interface also features a search bar, navigation links, and a sidebar with various library services.

Lists

indicate the number of resources, with descriptions that let browsing users know the sort of thing they'll be accessing when they connect to resources



Database Subjects (1-50 of 105)

Government

Agriculture Image Gallery [About Resource](#)
Searchable collection of 2000+ digital photos provided by the Agriculture Research Services Information Staff. Can also browse. Downloadable images available in several sizes.
An Agricultural Research Service Resource

AIDS Subset, PubMed [About Resource](#)
SubSet of the PubMed database, focusing on AIDS and HIV research
An NCBI database

Air Facility System [About Resource](#)
The Air Facility System (AFS) contains compliance and enforcement data and permit data for stationary sources of air pollution regulated by EPA, state and local air pollution agencies.
A EPAa resource

Alfred [About Resource](#)
Historic runs of U.S. economic series. Includes banking, the CPI, employment and population figures, exchange rates, the GDP, interest rates, the PPI, and U.S. trade. Coverage: varies by series.
Provided by the Federal Reserve of St. Louis

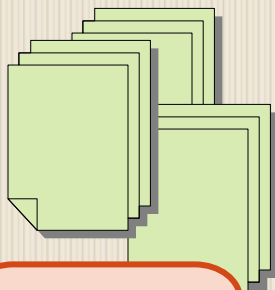
Alternative Fuels & Advanced Vehicle Data Center [About Resource](#)
A comprehensive clearinghouse of data, publications, tools, and information related to advanced transportation technologies.
A Department of Energy resource

American Factfinder [About Resource](#)
Source for population, housing, economic, and geographic data
A United State Census Bureau resource

American Memory: Photos and Prints [About Resource](#)
Digital collections of photographs and prints related to different aspects



Preparations



So, how'd you make this happen?

Creating templates in the ERM

Inputting the government resources we'd already been including in the A-Z

Selecting new resources for inclusion

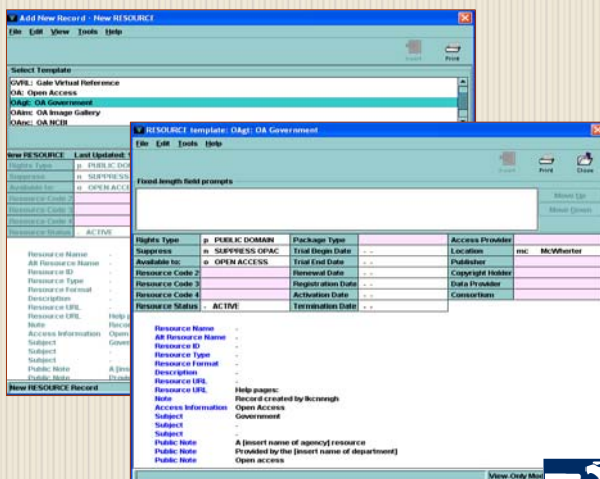


A Template

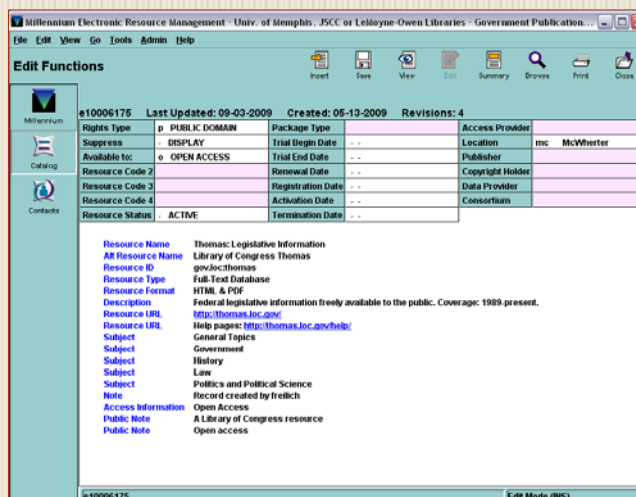
Allows text in both fixed-length and variable-length fields to be repeated across records

Various O/A templates were created:

- OA Government
- OA Image Gallery
- OA NCBI



Completed Resource Record for Thomas



Earthquake Hazard Program

This database from the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Center provides basic earthquake data from around the world, both current and historical.

A USGS resource

About Resource

GeoBase

Indexes the worldwide literature in geology, geography, and ecology. Includes journals, books, conferences, reports. Coverage: 1980-.

A FirstSearch database

About Resource

Geology of National Parks: 3D and Photographic Tours

Browse both 3D and standard photographic images of the United States National Parks. Selected field guides available. Subjects include igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks; weathering; glacier, coastal, and stream valley landforms; features of deserts and caverns; forests and plants; animals; native and prehistoric cultures; and man-made features. See the disclaimer accompanying each image for possible permissions considerations.

The 3D images require red and cyan 3D glasses for viewing.

About Resource

GeoRefs

From the American Geological Institute. Indexes the geosciences--geology and earth sciences. Worldwide in scope. Includes articles, books, maps, conference papers, reports. Coverage: North America, 1785-; International, 1900-.

A FirstSearch Database

About Resource

Landsat Image Gallery

Online archive of space-based moderate-resolution land remote sensing data.

Coverage: past 40 years.

Provided by the U.S. Geological Survey

Marine Geology and Geophysics Images: Visualizing Data

Source of images, including animations and 3D, of the ocean floor, continental shelves, the Great Lakes, seafloor topography, and natural and man-made features. Provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Geophysical Data Center

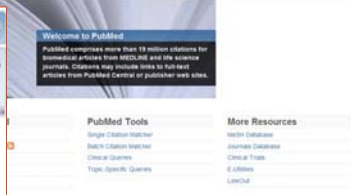
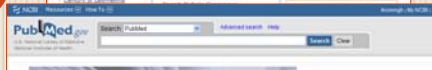
"WOW, I didn't know we had LandSat..." --UofM Faculty Member



List for resources in Geology—with commercial and government resources interfiled

Well, *EVERYBODY* knows PubMed, and ERIC, and Thomas.

How do you pick'em?



Considerations for Selection

- Databases that support UofM academic programs
- Major agency databases would lead to others (e.g. [EPA](#) & [Census](#))
- [USASearch.gov](#) & [Google Unclesam](#)
- Local & state interests
- Listings from other libraries
- Wonderful/interesting/unusual [databases](#) to include
- Datasets



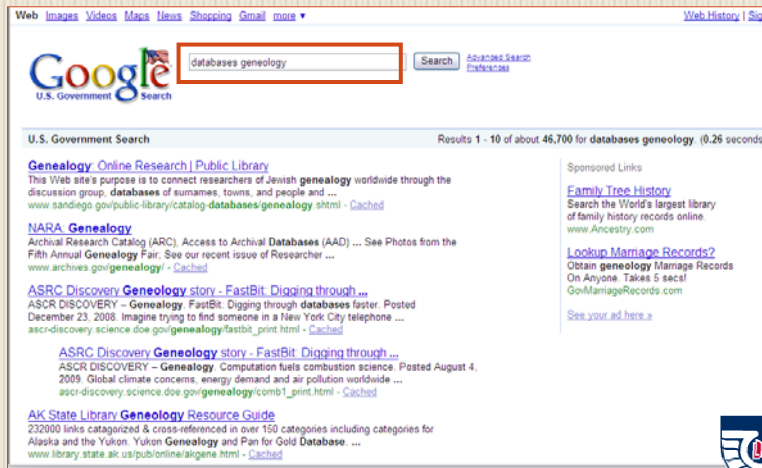
Finding Government Databases

A screenshot of the USASearch.gov website. The search bar contains the word 'databases' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, a red box highlights the text '127 results for databases out of at least 52,900,000 (Details)'. To the left is a sidebar with 'Topics' and 'Agencies' sections. The 'Topics' section includes 'Library (24)', 'Searchable database (9)', 'Geographic, Names Information System (7)', 'EPA (4)', 'Hospitals (7)', 'Sequence, Database Containing (4)', 'NIST, Chemical (6)', 'Department of Commerce (3)', 'USDA (4)', and 'Mapping (4)'. The 'Agencies' section includes 'remix'. The main content area shows a list of search results under the heading 'FAQs Federal Forms Images'. The first result is titled 'Does the Geographic Names Information System (GNIS) Database contain entries for geographic features that are... - USGS.gov'. The second result is 'I checked EBSA's Abandoned Plan searchable database and discovered that the termination and winding-up process for my... - DOI.gov'. The third result is 'What if I cannot locate my employer or find my plan in the Web site database? - DOI.gov'. Below the results are sections for 'Database' and 'Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library'. The 'Database' section describes Entrez as a text-based search and retrieval system used at NCBI. The 'Chattanooga-Hamilton County Bicentennial Library' section provides general instructions for using library resources from outside the library.

<http://usasearch.gov/>



Finding Gov't Databases, Con't.



The screenshot shows a Google search interface with the search term "databases genealogy" entered in the search box. The search results are displayed under the heading "U.S. Government Search" and show "Results 1 - 10 of about 46,700 for databases genealogy (0.26 seconds)". The results include several links related to genealogy research, such as "Genealogy: Online Research | Public Library", "NARA: Genealogy", "ASRC Discovery: Genealogy story - FastBit: Digging through...", and "AK State Library: Genealogy Resource Guide". A "Sponsored Links" section on the right includes "Family Tree History" and "Lookup Marriage Records?". A small logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the search results area.

<http://www.google.com/unclesam>

Datasets?

- *A data set (or dataset) is a collection of interrelated data, usually presented in tabular form. It is comprised of separate data elements stored, retrieved, and organized as a unit.*
- **Examples:**
 - [National Map Seamless Server](#)
 - [Substance Abuse Treatment Episode Dataset](#)
 - [NASA –GISS Surface Temperature Analysis](#)
 - [CDC – AIDS Public Information](#)
 - [USDA – Web Games for Healthy Kids](#)



Maintenance Issues

- No uniform standards among agencies
- Technology differences among agencies
- Interface/Browser/Software upgrades (Gates Syndrome)
- Vigilance
- Agencies do not always/never report database existence to Government Printing Office



From here, where?



- Maintaining the records
 - Changing URLs, modifying descriptions
- Keeping the lists current
 - Adding and removing resources
- Actively teaching users



For users, the discovery of databases through an online catalog requires more than what is involved with finding the location of a book on the shelf. There will be “costs” involved in enabling them to “fall over resources,” whether those resources are free or not, because any resource will be far more involved and complicated than a book.



Some of Our Favorites

- [Agricultural Image Database](#)
- [American Memory Photos](#)
- [FBI](#)
- [Household Products Database](#)
- [National Atlas](#)
- [Land Patent](#)



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