# Where to Search 2:

Search Tools (Databases)

- To tap into the stored communications that flow through multiple channels, you use search tools (databases)
- Multiple organizations have created search tools, each tool having a different functional focus

Some search tools might focus on items that deal with a single, broad discipline, e.g., psychology OR sociology OR literature OR health sciences, but the items might flow through either:

- a single communication channel, e.g., just academic articles dealing with the health sciences, or

- multiple communication channels, e.g., books AND dissertations AND academic articles dealing with psychology

Other search tools are multidisciplinary. They include descriptions of items that deal with multiple subject fields, e.g., psychology AND sociology AND literature AND American history

- These multidisciplinary tools might focus either on items that flow through:
    - a single communication channel, e.g., books OR dissertations OR academic articles, or
    - multiple communication channels, e.g. books AND dissertations AND academic articles

# Search Tool (Database) Examples

**Disciplinary Coverage**

|  | **Single Discipline** | **Multidisciplinary** |
|---|---|---|
| **Single Channel** | ***BioOne*** – (Biology Articles)<br><br>***Criminal Justice Periodicals*** – (Criminology Articles)<br><br>***PubMed*** – (Health Sciences Articles) | ***Dissertations & Theses Full Text*** – (Dissertations/Theses)<br><br>***Web of Science*** – (Articles)<br><br>***WorldCat*** – (Books) |
| **Multiple Channels** | ***ERIC*** – (Education)<br><br>***MLA Bibliography*** – (Lit)<br><br>***PsycINFO*** – (Psychology) | ***Esearch***<br><br>***Google Scholar*** |

**Communication Channels**
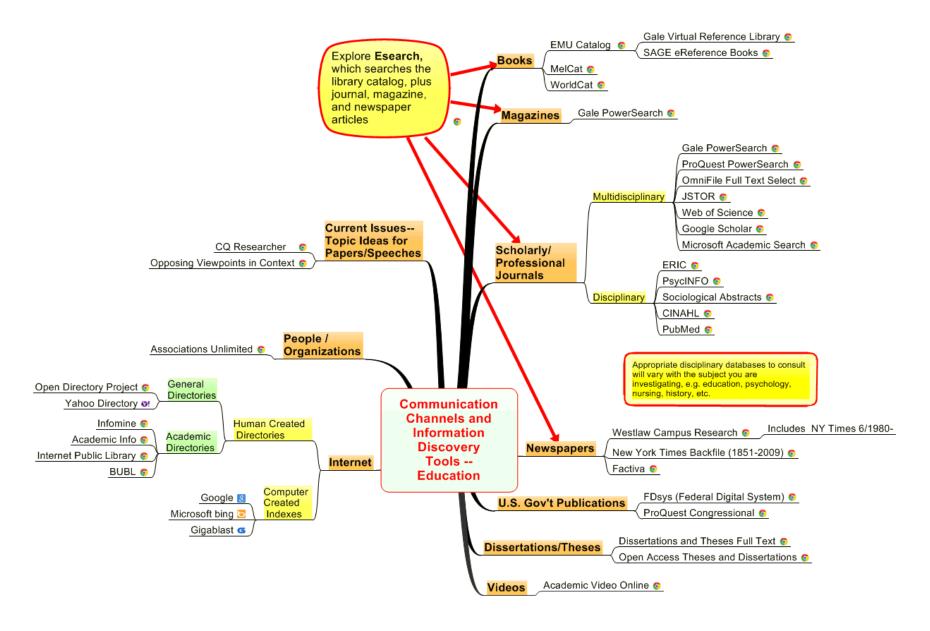
For almost all EMU academic departments or disciplines,

e.g., art, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, criminology, English language and literature, nursing, psychology, social work, women's and gender studies,

the EMU Library subscribes to different search tools (databases) that support searching for content that is studied and taught in those departments or disciplines.

Another way to visualize the landscape of databases is to focus on a single discipline, e.g., Education, and display the array of available databases that can be used to search for content flowing through different communication channels

Explore **Esearch,** which searches the library catalog, plus journal, magazine, and newspaper articles

**Books**
- EMU Catalog
  - Gale Virtual Reference Library
  - SAGE eReference Books
- MelCat
- WorldCat

**Magazines**
- Gale PowerSearch

**Scholarly/ Professional Journals**
- Multidisciplinary
  - Gale PowerSearch
  - ProQuest PowerSearch
  - OmniFile Full Text Select
  - JSTOR
  - Web of Science
  - Google Scholar
  - Microsoft Academic Search
- Disciplinary
  - ERIC
  - PsycINFO
  - Sociological Abstracts
  - CINAHL
  - PubMed

Appropriate disciplinary databases to consult will vary with the subject you are investigating, e.g. education, psychology, nursing, history, etc.

**Current Issues-- Topic Ideas for Papers/Speeches**
- CQ Researcher
- Opposing Viewpoints in Context

**People / Organizations**
- Associations Unlimited

**Internet**
- Human Created Directories
  - General Directories
    - Open Directory Project
    - Yahoo Directory
  - Academic Directories
    - Infomine
    - Academic Info
    - Internet Public Library
    - BUBL
- Computer Created Indexes
  - Google
  - Microsoft bing
  - Gigablast

**Communication Channels and Information Discovery Tools -- Education**

**Newspapers**
- Westlaw Campus Research — Includes NY Times 6/1980-
- New York Times Backfile (1851-2009)
- Factiva

**U.S. Gov't Publications**
- FDsys (Federal Digital System)
- ProQuest Congressional

**Dissertations/Theses**
- Dissertations and Theses Full Text
- Open Access Theses and Dissertations

**Videos**
- Academic Video Online
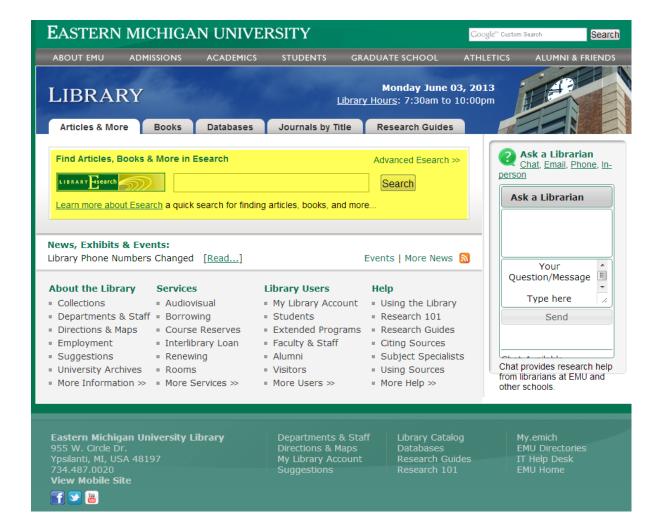
It looks complex…there are lots of possibilities…

So what search tools should you use to discover the kinds of content your teachers often ask for?

Consider using at least two search tools (databases)…

# You might start with*:*

- ***Esearch***
  - a multidisciplinary database which includes descriptions of items in the EMU library catalog, plus descriptions of many of the journal, magazine, and newspaper articles that the EMU library subscribes to

A search box for the multidisciplinary *Esearch* database is located toward the center of the library home page: http://emich.edu/library/
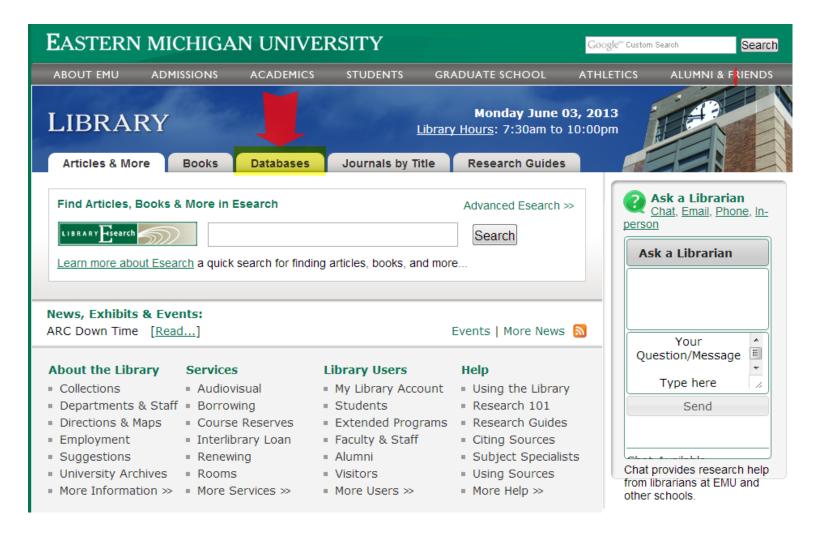
# Consider also using*:*

- A disciplinary database appropriate for the subject you are investigating
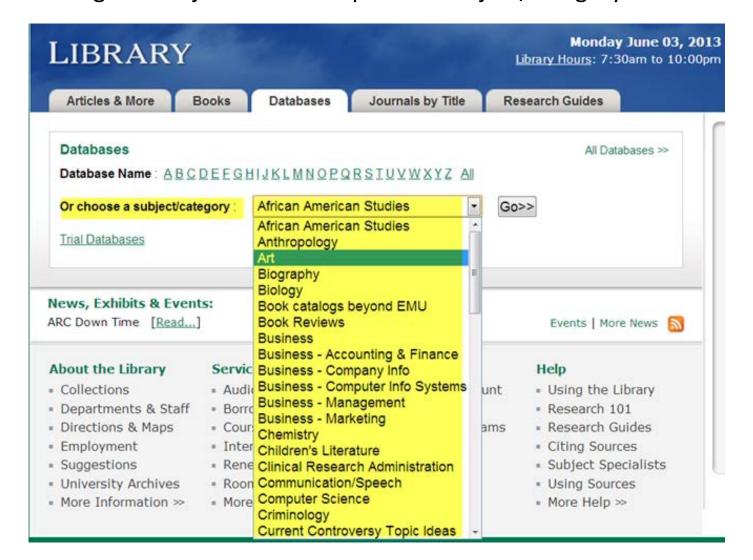
  For example, to find research dealing with the topic:

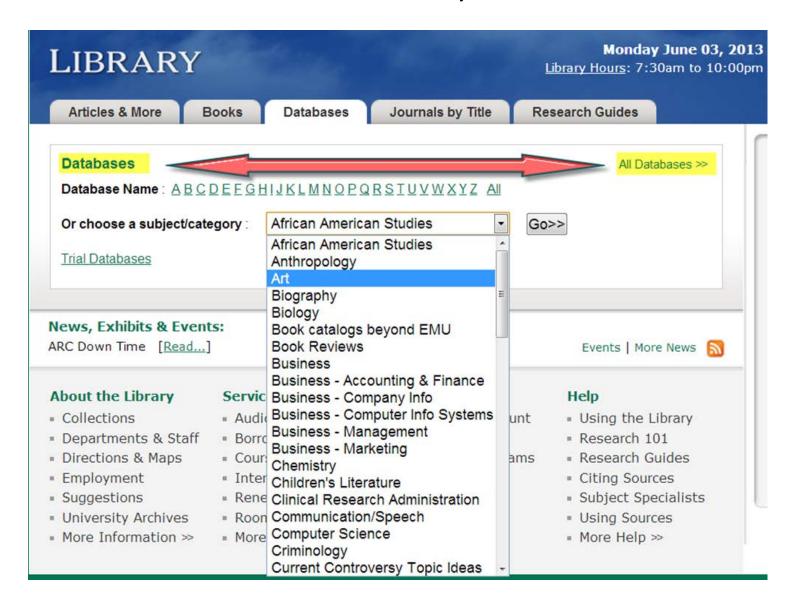  *Does being overweight impact academic performance?*

  you might consider searching a disciplinary database for the field of education OR health sciences OR psychology. You would NOT want to use a database dealing with the history of art.

- To determine the databases available to you at EMU, go to the library home page and click the tab that says *Databases*

- If you want to search for material in a broad subject field, you can get suggestions from an EMU librarian as to what databases to start with by selecting the subject on the drop-down subject/category menu

- You can also click the links that say *Databases* or *All Databases*

- …to see a different display of this information