What is a library research database?

- **Library research databases contain information from published works.**
  - Examples: Magazine, professional journal and newspaper articles, encyclopedias and reference books.

- **Library research databases are searchable.**
  - By Keywords, Subject, Author, Magazine Title, Date, etc.

- **Library research databases provide citation information.**
  - Author, if available
  - Title of Article
  - Publication (Title of Magazine, Newspaper, or Reference Book)
  - Publisher
  - Date of Publication

- **Library research databases often contain full-text articles.**
  - You can print, email or save entire articles.

- **There are different kinds of library research databases.**
  - For specific topics. Examples: Biography Resource Center, New Book of Popular Science
  - For general topics. Examples: EBSCO Masterfile, World Book Online

- **Library research databases are paid for by tax payer dollars.**

How is a library research database different from a website?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library research databases</th>
<th>Websites</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Library research databases get their information from professionals or experts in the field.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Websites can be written by anyone regardless of expertise.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Library research databases contain published works where facts are checked.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Website content is not necessarily checked by an expert.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Library research databases are easy to cite in a bibliography and most create the citation for you.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Websites often don’t provide the information necessary to create a complete citation.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Library research databases can help you narrow your topic or suggest related subjects.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Websites often aren’t organized to support student research needs.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Library research databases are updated frequently and include the date of publication.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Websites may not indicate when the information was updated.</strong></td>
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*Adapted from the Hennepin County Library website.*