



# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SHAKE LIBRARY RESOURCE GUIDE VINCENNES UNIVERSITY

Compiled by  
**Joseph H. Helms, Reference Librarian**  
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Shake Library offers students, faculty, and staff a wide array of resources to use in locating information on any given topic. From traditional print material such as books to more popular online resources such as EBSCOhost, one can find information about a topic. To access online resources and other information about library services, go to VU's website at <http://www.vinu.edu>, then click on **Majors and Academics**, and then click **Libraries**. **If you need help, ask a librarian at the Reference Desk (located at entrance to Computer Commons).**

## I. FIND BOOKS

### VU WEBCAT LIBRARY CATALOG

Once you are in the library's website, click on **Find Books** located on left side of page. To access the library catalog, click on **VU WebCat – Vincennes Shake Library Catalog**. VU WebCat is the library's computerized catalog of books, e-books, videotapes, music CDs, periodicals subscribed to by the library, and some useful web sites.

You can find materials quickly using the Simple Search page (the default page you see when you access WebCat) or the Keyword Search page. Simple Search allows searching WebCat by the following menu choices:

- Author Browse
- Exact Title
- Subject Browse (for computer-related topics, use terms like computer graphics, computer industry, computer networks, computer software, computers, computers and civilization, computers history, electronic data processing, information storage and retrieval systems, information technology, integrated circuits, internet, java, management information systems, Microsoft access, Microsoft excel, programming languages, web site design, world wide web, etc.)
- Call Number Browse
- Command Search (keywords)
- Journal Title (searches for titles of magazines and journals in the library's Periodical Collections)

The Keyword Search page allows you to do very easy keyword searching and field searching – restricting your search to titles, subjects, etc.

## REFERENCE BOOKS

Reference books (atlases, dictionaries, encyclopedias, handbooks, etc.) are sources designed to be used in identifying pieces of information rather than for reading the entire text. The library purchases reference books in both print and electronic formats. All titles are searchable in VU WebCat.

- Print Collection is located on 1<sup>st</sup> floor behind Lending Services Desk.
- Electronic Collection is located on library's **Find Books** page by clicking on the link **VU Libraries Electronic Book Collections**. *Credo Reference* is an excellent reference source to use in finding information on any topic. This resource has more than 400 reference titles covering diverse subject areas like art, business, food, history, literature, medicine, religion, science, social sciences, and technology. Other collections include *ABC-CLIO* (history & social science), *AccessScience*, *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*, *Gale Virtual Reference Library*, *NetLibrary* (a collection of books on various subjects), *Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center*, *Oxford Digital Reference Shelf*, and *R2 Library* (a collection of books related to nursing and allied health).

## II. FIND ARTICLES

Shake Library provides a good selection of databases to use in locating articles on specific topics in the periodical literature – journals, magazines, newspapers, trade publications, etc. After accessing an online database, use the help information available with that database to become familiar with its search options. If you need assistance with using a database, please ask for help from a librarian at the Reference Desk. Use the directions above to go to the library's website, and then click **Find Articles** located on left side of the page. Given below are brief descriptions of primary periodical database products carried by the library.

### EBSCOhost

*EBSCOhost* is a major provider for online access to periodicals. The three resources listed below are excellent for providing access to thousands of full-text articles appearing in scholarly journals, trade magazines and popular magazines.

- *Academic Search Premier*: A resource providing information from a wide range of academic areas, including social sciences, humanities, education, general science, multicultural and general reference. All total, there are over 4,600 full text publications.
- *MasterFILE Premier*: This multidisciplinary resource provides full text for nearly 1,950 general reference publications with full text information dating as far back as 1975.
- *Business Source Premier*: This includes topics such as management, economics, finance, accounting, and international business. There are over 2,800 business journals indexed and abstracted, with the full text available for over 2,200 journals. Full text coverage for some articles dates as far back as 1990.

### PROQUEST

*ProQuest* offers a suite of periodical resources that cover everything from career and vocational education to social science. More than 3,000 publications are listed in *ProQuest*, with many available in full text. There are many full text computer-related periodicals in *ProQuest*.

## **LexisNexis ACADEMIC**

Whether you are searching for national or world news, business or company information, federal or state statutes, case law, legal news, medical news, or information on people, this resource provides timely information for researchers to conduct substantive research from credible sources.

### **TYPES OF PERIODICALS**

**Academic, Scholarly, Peer-reviewed, Research** – Articles are written by professionals in the field, professors, and scientists. The articles contain academic or technical terminology and generally describe original research. Articles are fully documented with footnotes, works cited, etc. Examples of these types of publications include *Information Management Journal*, *Information Systems Research*, *Journal of Computer Information Systems*, and *Journal of High Speed Networks*.

**Trade and Industry** – Articles are written by practitioners for practitioners in the field. The articles provide current industry information, product and company information, management trends, new products, statistics, forecasts, interviews, etc. Articles may contain a brief listing of sources cited. Examples of these types of publications include *Computer Dealer News*, *Computer Weekly News*, *Computerworld*, and *eWeek*.

**Magazines and Newspapers** – Articles are written by journalists, freelance writers, and pundits. The articles are written for a general audience and provide information on social and political issues, current events, and popular culture. Magazines and newspapers provide authors an outlet for expressing opinion or commentary on any given topic. Articles generally do not provide documentation of sources cited. Examples of these types of publications include *Chicago Tribune*, *National Review*, *Newsweek*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and *Sports Illustrated*.

### **III. FIND PERIODICAL TITLES (PERIODICAL COLLECTIONS)**

This resource provides a searchable listing of all periodical titles available through the library. This includes all title holdings in the library's physical collections (recent issues, bound, and microform) as well as electronic issues made available through database vendors like *EBSCOhost*, *ProQuest*, and *LexisNexis Academic*. You can search by title, subject, or keywords. This is an excellent tool to use to see what publications are available in specific subject areas. You access this resource by following the instructions noted above in getting to the VU Libraries' website, and then select the link "Find Periodical Titles" found on the left side of the page. To browse periodicals by subject category, select the subject "Engineering & Applied Sciences" and then click search. Next, select the heading "Computer Science" or the subheading "Information Technology" found under "Electrical & Computer Engineering."

### **IV. VU LIBRARY SEARCH**

VU Library Search offers students, faculty and staff a search engine that searches library electronic resources simultaneously. This resource provides keyword, title, author, abstract, or subject searching. The researcher can also limit their search to a specific date range and full-text articles. The researcher also has the choice of selecting a subject category to search or to individually select electronic resources.