**Re: Search Podcast**

**Episode 4: Databases and Journals**

Hello again! This is Andrea, and this Grace! Welcome back to George Mason University Libraries’ podcast titled Re:Search! If you’re not able to find your topic of interest in the subject guides, or you’re just looking for more resources and you want to branch out, you have come to the right episode! Today’s episode we will be going to discuss databases and journals part of our library catalogue. I would encourage you to, if you want, follow along on your own computer as we go more in-depth into the GMU library website. To start, go to [library.gmu.edu](http://www.library.gmu.edu). Now then, let’s get right into it!

In order to navigate your way onto the research databases on our library website you are going to first click the search bar on the left side of the screen under the mason logo. You can see that there are many options to find specific materials you will need like catalogs, course reserves, data and gis, media collections, mason research also known as MARS, of course like we talked about in our previous episode subject guides. Sometimes these resources may not work for you and would like other options. That is where databases and peer reviewed journals can come in handy.

Once you go into the research databases section of the library website there are many options to explore from different subjects. Good place to start if you know what your topic is/ research questions. For example, if you know your assignment requires you to become familiar with each of Shakespeare’s plays, you can go to the “language and literature” section on the databases page and browse the different databases that seem promising to you! Each database has a brief summary/description of its contexts and gives a quick overview with what types of resources it includes. Luckily, there’s a database right here titled “BBC Shakespeare Plays,” so we’re in luck!

If we want more than just the texts of the plays themselves, we can try the database titled “Literature Criticism Online” or “World Shakespeare Bibliography” which both list that they include scholarly works on Shakespeare. Even though there are only three databases that directly list that they include Shakespeare in their descriptions, these will not be the only databases that have resources we’re looking for! We can click on any of the databases that sound like they could be a good match (based on the genres/time periods they focus on) and look from there-- chances are we’ll be able to find useful research in most of these databases!

Next up, relatively similar to the database section is the journal section! It’s located directly to the right of the databases, if you’re looking at the homepage of the library site. Unlike databases, though, you can’t just browse through the journals based on subject. Instead, the “journals” search bar is for when you already have a specific journal in mind that you want to access. So, you might not need to use this as much, unless you know your field well and have journals already in mind, or your professor asks you to use a specific journal. However, you might come across the names of certain journals in the database section or in the library catalog search, in which case you can just type the name of the journal into this search bar and then you can have access to the whole thing!

Another trick that I find helpful is actually searching up my topic on google scholar; you can find lots of resources that you might not have seen on the catalog. You might not be able to have full access to the article or the journal on google scholar, but at this point you can look up the journal name in this section of the website, and hopefully you’ll be able to access it via the GMU library website!

The final major section of the library website is the “reserves” section. It’s through this that students may access physical / digital copies of textbooks or other learning materials that their professors put on reserve.

If you ever want to know more about the GMU catalog, or refresh anything you learned here, you can go to library.gmu.edu/tutorials, and there you can find a number of video tutorials that show you exactly how to use all of the library’s resources!

Once again, thanks for tuning into this week’s episode!

"I've got a great joke about construction, but I'm still working on it."

This episode wraps up our little series on exploring the GMU library page, so we hoped that you learned a lot and are more confident about using the library resources while conducting your research! Thank you again and see you next time!