



LIBRARY

Handout Video SLB 3: Databases

A search engine such as Google searches only a small part of the internet. Think of it like an iceberg - you can see the part above the water, but not the part below the water.

You can regard the internet in the same way: The part that Google searches is publicly accessible, but there is a much larger part that you cannot access. This is where you will find many databases, among other things.

Databases are large collections of digital information such as scholarly articles, information about companies, or eBooks. The information is classified by subject which makes the databases easier to use. The information is selected and assessed by experts, which means you can assume that it is reliable and can be used for your studies.

Usually, you have to pay to gain access to a database. That is why you mostly do not find this information using Google. The library has subscriptions to many of these databases which you, as a student can use free of charge.

But where do you find these databases?

On the library homepage, you will find *Search the HvA library*. You can use this search box to search a number of the databases and catalogues of the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences and the University of Amsterdam.

To see the complete list of databases, click "Searching Databases". The list also contains many databases specific to your discipline. Is the choice too wide? If so, limit the list to your discipline or to a type of database. Most databases have a link to the manual.

So do not limit your search to Google. The library databases offer a large amount of useful information for your studies. Be sure to use them!