# What’s a library database?

## Video description

1:56 minute video

The video is a short animation that explains library databases from a student perspective.

## Transcript

FEMALE NARRATOR:

I got my first uni assignment and my lecturer told me to look in the library databases for journal articles. I was like, THE WHAT?

But when I got to the University Library, a librarian explained it to me. She said: first you have to get your head around what the academic journals. These are not your 'dear diary' journals, right? Academic journals are collections of articles written by experts in an academic discipline. They've usually been reviewed by other academics in this field, who have said that this research is original, and important, and at a high standard. This means that, if you use them, you'll get better marks than if you use Wikipedia, or a random website you've found on Google.

In the past, journals were always printed; articles were written and collected in journals which were published at regular intervals. Libraries collected these and filled lots of shelves with them. Then the internet came along and changed the way journals were produced.

Now they are more often found online as e-journals. Online e-journals are organised in library databases. A library database is like a bucket : each holds a collection of e-journals. Some databases hold heaps of journals in them while others don't have that many.

The University Library subscribes to databases that focus on relevant subjects for RMIT students and researches. No single database will have all the information you need, so you need to find out which ones are best for what you're researching. The Library has subject guides that show you which databases are best for your area. It's so much easier to find information when you know where to look and why!  
[http://www.rmit.edu.au/library/subjectguides]

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