

Northeast Lakeview College LRC
Resource Guide – Current Events/Controversial Topics
www.alamo.edu/nlc/library

GETTING STARTED USING THE ONLINE CATALOG – Books & More!

<http://library.alamo.edu/search/X>

Use the Online Catalog to find materials owned by NLC, SAC, PAC, SPC, and NWV. You can identify e-books, physical books, periodical titles, media items, and government documents.

By doing an **ADVANCED KEYWORD** search, you can specify a specific college, a specific type of material, or a combination of criteria by using **BOOLEAN** connectors *AND*, *OR*, and *AND NOT*.

Use **Subject**: to search within the **subject** field only. This will generally help to narrow your search results by producing fewer matches, for example:

stem cells at Northeast Lakeview College – 38 results

Subject: stem cells at Northeast Lakeview College - 26 results

Use **AND** to narrow your search:

Subject: stem cells *AND* research – 16 results

Subject: stem cells *AND* clon* – 6 results (use asterisk to indicate truncation for 1-5 characters to expand your search, for example, clon* will find clone, clones, cloning, etc.)

Multiple words not in quotes are searched first as a **phrase**. Results are shown with any phrase matches and then with the words searched individually but “*ANDed*” together. To narrow your search to only a specific phrase, enclose it in quotation marks, for example:

stem cells is a different search than “*stem cells*”

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Taking Sides: You may find this book series to be helpful when writing about controversial topics. To find this series in the catalog, do a KEYWORD search for t:Taking Sides and limit to Northeast Lakeview College, then click on a particular title to find out the call number and location. You can do a BOOLEAN search for a specific Taking Sides title and subject, for example: t:Taking Sides AND s:environment*

Quotations:

- [*The Oxford Dictionary of American Quotations*](#): PN6081 .A623 2006 (Reference)
- [*The Hutchinson Dictionary of Quotations*](#): E-book
- To find others, just try a KEYWORD search for s:quotations

Statistics:

- [*Texas almanac*](#). 2008-2009: AY311.D3 T5 2008 (Reference)
- [*State Rankings 2006: A Statistical View of the 50 United States*](#): E-book
- [*World Economic Historical Statistics*](#): HA155 .S225 2005 (Reference) and [E-book](#)
- To find others, just try a KEYWORD search for s:statistics

Hint: To access the E-books from off-campus, click on the [Electronic Books](#) link on our homepage and do a search by Title.

GETTING STARTED USING ELECTRONIC DATABASES – Articles & More!

http://www.alamo.edu/nlc/library/t_Electronic%20Databases.htm

Use the databases that are most appropriate for your subject. Some databases are broad and cross field disciplines, whereas others are more focused on a particular subject area. Click on a particular subject to take you to the appropriate list of databases. For current event/controversial topics, you might try [Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center](#) and [Reference Suite \(Facts on File\)](#) or a general database such as [Academic Search Complete](#). You might also find useful results, including editorials, in newspaper databases such as [Newspaper Source](#) or [InfoTrac Custom Newspapers](#). Look under the [General / Multidisciplinary](#) heading or the [Public Speaking](#) heading for other database ideas.

[Opposing Viewpoints Resource Center](#)

This database allows you to either **Search** or **Browse** for a topic. To search for a topic, enter it into the Basic Search, or click on “Advanced” in the “Search Types” bar for additional options. Alternatively, you can browse by selecting from a list of popular topics. (See next illustration.)

Search Types	Basic	Subject Guide	Publication	Advanced	Curriculum Standards
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Advanced Search

Subject(su)

And Keyword(ke)

And Publication Title(pu) [Browse Publication Title\(pu\)](#)

[Add a Row](#)

Notice that the search results are broken down by type of material. Just click on any tab to view one particular type, i.e. Academic Journals, Multimedia, etc.

Results for Basic Search (SU (censorship))

A horizontal navigation bar with several colored tabs: Viewpoints (yellow), Reference (pink), Magazines (purple), Academic Journals (blue), News (green), Primary Sources (orange), Statistics (light green), Multimedia (light blue), and Websites (light purple). Below the tabs is a 'Refine Results' link and a 'Sort by:' dropdown menu set to 'Relevance'.

Issues & Controversies On File This database allows you to either **Search** or **Browse** current Issues in the Headlines. Click on **ACCESS ALL TOPICS** under Issues in the Headlines for more current topics from the previous year.

The interface for 'Facts On File ISSUES & CONTROVERSIES' features a blue header with a scales of justice graphic. Below the header are navigation tabs for 'ENCYCLOPEDIA', 'ALMANAC', and 'CURRICULUM TOOLS'. A search box contains 'single parent*' with a 'GO' button. Search options include 'Search Story and Title Text' (checked) and 'Search Title Text Only'. A 'Sort Option For Results List' section has 'By Relevance Rank' checked and 'By Story Date' unchecked. A central image shows 'DEBT IN AMERICA' with logos for MasterCard and VISA. A 'Issues in the Headlines' section lists topics like 'Chronic Homelessness', 'College Early-Admissions Program', 'Debt in America', 'Economic Rescue Plan', and 'Housing Vouchers'.

Academic Search Complete

Academic Search Complete is a multi-disciplinary database with citations and some fulltext covering nearly every area of academic study. This database defaults to the **Advanced Search**, which allows you to enter up to 3 pieces of information. (See illustration – next image.) Use the BOOLEAN connectors AND, OR, NOT to enter a specific search.

The EBSCO Academic Search Complete advanced search interface shows a search bar with 'gun control' and a dropdown menu set to 'SU Subject Terms'. Below it, a second search bar contains 'and' and 'law*' with a dropdown menu set to 'AB Abstract or Author-Supplied Abstract'. A third search bar contains 'and' and a dropdown menu set to 'Select a Field (optional)'. Buttons for 'Search' and 'Clear' are visible. The interface also includes a 'Sign In to' link and navigation options like 'Advanced Search', 'Visual Search', 'Search History/Alerts', and 'Preferences'.

Again, the results are broken down by type of material: Academic Journals, Magazines, Newspapers, etc. (choose “Narrow Results by” > “Source Types” in the side panel).

FINDING FULLTEXT USING A TO Z ONLINE JOURNAL LOCATOR

If fulltext is not available for a particular article, use the A to Z Journal Locator to find out if it is fulltext in another database.

<https://proxy.nlc.alamo.edu:4443/login?url=http://atoz.ebsco.com/Search.asp?id=8525>

ONLINE RESOURCES - Be sure to evaluate any online source before using it.

- Public Speaking/Current Issues:
http://www.alamo.edu/nlc/library/t_links.html#publicspeaking
- Statistics: http://www.alamo.edu/nlc/library/t_links.html#statistics