Types of Resources:

Electronic
Types of Electronic Resources

- There are 3 types of electronic resources:
  - Digital Communications
  - Digital Collections
  - Online Finding Aids
Digital Communications

These include:
- E-mail
- Listservs
- Blogs
- Message boards
- Social networking sites
- Online tutorials
- Online classroom instruction sites

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Digital Collections Include:

- Internet web sites
- Online image collections
- Online audio collections (i.e. iTunes)
- Online video collections (i.e. YouTube)
- Online electronic book collections
- Online periodical article collections
- Online documents (i.e. PDF files)
- Wikis (i.e. Wikipedia)
Tips on Wikis and Blogs:

- **Be careful** with using wikis and blogs.
- Evaluate them closely and consider who is contributing the information.
  - Is the contributor a professional or a scholar on the subject? Or just anyone on the Internet?
  - Do the contributors agree or disagree with the content?
  - Who is the information intended for? Other professionals? Or just anyone?
  - On Wikipedia, take a look at the Discussion and the History tabs within an article to see more information. How many times was it revised?

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Online Finding Aids:

- **There are 3 types of finding aids:**
  - **Indexes:** Helps you find resources in a collection. (i.e. The Library Catalog helps you find books in the library.)
  - **Search Engines:** An index that helps you find web sites on the Internet. (i.e. Google)
  - **Databases:** A searchable, electronic collection of information often on a particular subject or specific type of resource. This is like an index with the collection of resources included with it!
Indexes

- The online library catalog is an index to all the materials that are physically in the library. It helps you find books and audiovisual materials in the library.
- Some web sites may have a site index to help you find information on their particular web page.
Search Engines

- Search engines are a type of index to help you find other web sites on the Internet.
- Once you find a web site, you will need to evaluate it carefully. **Remember: anyone can put anything on the Internet!**
- Internet information is free, so sometimes you only get what you pay for.
- Examples of Search Engines:
  - Google
  - Yahoo!
  - Bing

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Databases

- Databases combine index searching and access to the actual online digital collection within one web site.
- Content within a database has been reviewed and edited by professionals and scholars, so the information is high-quality, authoritative, and reliable.
- For this reason, databases often have to be paid for by libraries.
Databases in our Library

- Two of the online databases available to you are **NC LIVE** and **Gale Opposing Viewpoints**.
- **NC LIVE** is paid for by the State of North Carolina with taxpayer money. It is a collection of approximately 60 databases.
- **Gale Opposing Viewpoints** is one of several available databases paid for by the Library.
- **Most databases available though the library provide** complete articles from periodicals, as well as other types of resources in electronic format.

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Indexing and Abstracts of Articles in Databases

- Some databases may only index articles and give you the citation (or bibliographic information) and an abstract (or summary) of the article, but not the article itself.

- If you find such a citation and abstract in doing your research, you will need to locate the full article yourself, either online, in our library’s periodical collection, or through our interlibrary loan service from another library.

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Full-Text Articles in Databases

- If a database has full-text articles (along with the citation and abstract), then you will be able to access the complete article online in the database.

- Most full-text articles are displayed as plain text within the database, or as a PDF file (Portable Document File).

- Look for full-text databases for immediate access to articles ready to print, download, or e-mail. It’s the fastest, easiest way to find periodical articles and other quality resources.

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CCCC Library Databases for Periodical Articles

- Gale Opposing Viewpoints in Context
- JSTOR
- Liebert Online
- NC LIVE

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CCCC Library Databases for eBooks

- College History Collection
- eBooks from Infobase Publishing
- NC LIVE
- RN Database
- Small Business eBooks & eAudio Books
- STAT!Ref – Dentistry
- STAT!Ref – Nursing

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CCCC Library Databases for Encyclopedias & Reference

- Gale Virtual Reference Library
- NC LIVE
- Salem Health
- Salem History
- Salem Science
- Sex and Society
- Sharpe Online Reference (SOLR)

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CCCC Library Databases in Specialty Areas

- Anatomy TV (3-D graphical images)
- Films on Demand (eVideos)
- Literature Resource Center
- NC LIVE
- Westlaw

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Library Integrated Search

- The Library Integrated Search on our web page allows you to search multiple databases in a single search.
- Choose groups of databases to search by subject.
- Search up to 52 databases and the library catalog to find more resources on your topic!

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Tips to Remember

- Try Boolean searching to find more relevant search results. (See our Boolean Searching tutorial.)
- Passwords are required to access databases off-campus. Contact the library for the passwords.
- Ask a librarian for help if you need assistance.

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Ready to start searching online?

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