Choosing a Database

The UWF library has hundreds of databases with a bunch of funny names, and they're all good for different things. Everyone likes memorizing really long lists of weird names and the topics they go with, right? I didn’t think so. Fortunately, the UWF librarians organized these databases according to their subjects to make it easier for you to find the right database for your particular discipline. On the library home page, look for the "databases" tab. In here you'll find "databases by subject," which is where you want to be. This page contains a list of our databases organized by subject. In addition to these subject-specific databases, we also have a collection of general databases, right up top.

What's the difference? Subject-specific databases contain documents that cover only one topic. Like medicine, anthropology, or history. General, or multidisciplinary, databases contain documents that cover a variety of topics. One kind of database isn’t better than the other: General databases have a little bit of everything, subject-specific databases have an awful lot of one thing. That makes general databases great places to start your research, but the deeper you delve into your topic or the farther along you get in your major, the more you’re going to want to go to the subject-specific databases.

You can also locate relevant databases using the library's research guides, which are web pages the librarians made to guide you to resources in your major or discipline. To find them, click on "research help" over at the left side of the library home page, then on "research guides". Choose a subject, select a guide, and dig in. Check out the different tabs at the top of the guide. There's a lot more to these things than just lists of databases. Like helpful instructions for how to use them. One last thing: databases are like fried insects. You don't know which ones are the best until you try them. So try lots of them. Mmm... arthropodalicious.