



## Information Literate Engineer: Assignment #5: Database Searching

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Programme: \_\_\_\_\_

Course Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester: \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Description:

This activity will introduce you to a variety of databases in **agricultural mechanization and irrigation engineering** by asking you to review and prepare an "*elevator speech or elevator pitch*" on the database's best features and content. An elevator pitch or speech is a short description of an idea, product, or company that explains the concept in a way such that any listener can understand it in short period of time. Students will share their speeches with other students and receive comments of what they've discovered. The sharing matrix will be discussed in class to ensure that no student reads the other's work more than once.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Students will be able to identify and use appropriate databases to form an effective research strategy.
- Students will be able to differentiate databases based on functionality and content scope.

### Assignment Instructions

- Students will visit the library website and go direct to the electronic resources page [add the link] where the list of electronic resources is posted.
- Students will review all the databases and select those that they think have content on agricultural mechanization and irrigation engineering
- Students will create a list of all those databases that they think have content on agricultural mechanization and irrigation engineering and will create a table to list the databases and reasons for selecting them [Sample table attached]
- Students will sign up for the MyLOFT authentication database and create an account.
- Students will add the selected databases into their MyLOFT account.

- Students will then proceed to review each database by filling the table in Part A and responding to the questions there in. Students will add the name of the database being reviewed.
- In part B, students will state the pros and cons of search each database
- After completing the pros and cons for each database, will now repeat the search process with 3 databases and fill in the table in Part C.
- The student will then finally write a 2-page maximum paper explaining the database of their choice and preference.

### Database Review Template

#### PART A

My database is: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue	Explanation
<p><b>What subject area(s) does it cover?</b> Most databases specialize in one subject area. Use a research guide, or limit the A-Z list of databases by subject.</p>	
<p><b>What date range does it cover?</b> Check to see what the oldest available content is, and the most recent. Some databases may go back decades, some may be lagging two or three years behind the most recent issue.</p>	
<p><b>What type of material does it cover?</b> Does this database contain scholarly journal articles, magazine and</p>	

Issue	Explanation
newspaper articles, book chapters, conference papers, data, images, or personal papers?	
<b>Geographic bias?</b> Does the database cover international content, or is it limited?	

**Part B:**

Database #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Pros	Cons

Database #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Pros	Cons

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Database #3: \_\_\_\_\_

Pros	Cons

**Part C:**

I'm looking for.... \_\_\_\_\_ [add your research topic here]

**Your research topic**

From the library's list of databases, open each of the databases you interviewed and search for sources on your research topic. Make sure to use the exact same search in each database so you can compare.

Database name	#1:	#2:	#3:
No. results			
Rate using 1 low - 5 high			
• Overall rating			
• Easy to search			
• Easy to limit results			
• Useful limiters			

• Relevant results			

Which database do you prefer overall? Why?