



## Reliable resources: Government topics

### BUTTE COLLEGE DATABASES

#### Off-Campus Access

To access the library databases from home, you'll be prompted to log in. This is **not** your My BC Portal ID.

User name = your last name + first two letters of your first name (no spaces)

Password = the last four digits of your student ID

*For example*, the username and password for Mary Smith with a student ID of 3659852 would be:

User Name: smithma

Password: 9852

***PATH: Library Home Page → Search for Articles → Databases A-Z***

#### *America's Newspapers*

Full text U.S., regional and local news, including the Chico Enterprise Record and other Northern California papers.

- Try searching “health care” in the headline
- You'll get lots of results, so also try limiting it “By Year” (2009), located on the left
- You'll probably also want to limit to a respected national paper like the *NY Times* or *USA Today*, located on the left under “By Source”

#### *CQ Researcher*

*The CQ Researcher* covers current and controversial issues. It offers Pro/Con and full reports on many issues.

- To browse hot topics, click on **CQ Researcher → Issue Tracker → Health** (or any topic)
- You can also find topics by using the search box:  
Type in: Health OR health-care OR “health care” OR “health insurance”.
- You can sort by date or relevance. For current issues, recent information is usually best.

#### *Proquest & Wilson*

These databases can all be filtered to only return full text documents and/or only articles from scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals. Many college instructors require using articles from scholarly journals.

- Advanced keyword in citation/abstract is the default search, or choose basic search.
- Print, email, cite or save the article by clicking the yellow buttons at the top left of the article.
- You can limit your results to a specific type of document or date of publication.
- Use the limiters to search only full-text, scholarly, by date, or subject, etc.
- Click on the author or journal name in the citation for more results from that author or to view that journal.

#### ***EBSCOHOST combined search: Academic Search Premiere, Business Source Premier, Military & Government Collection***

Like Proquest and Wilson, these databases have with many similar features and can be filtered for full text and/or only scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals. You can choose up to 24 databases from “Combined Databases.”

***PATH: Library Home Page → Search for Articles → Combined databases***

## SEARCH STRATEGIES

**Boolean Operators:** Use Boolean Operators [AND, OR, NOT] to narrow or broaden your keyword searches

**AND** – narrows search retrieves articles that contain **both** terms (before & after the “AND”); is best used to retrieve more focused results (i.e. student AND college)

**OR** – broadens search retrieves articles containing **either** one of the terms (before & after the “OR”) – will retrieve articles containing both terms, as well as those that contain just one. Best used for synonyms (i.e. adolescents OR “young adults” OR teenagers)

**NOT** – narrows search retrieve(s) articles containing terms preceding NOT & filters out those that contain term that follows best for eliminating “false hits” that occur when words have multiple meanings (i.e. cowboys NOT football)

**Truncation:** Use (\*) to retrieve all forms of root word (e.g. **librar\*** = **library, libraries, librarian, librarians, librarianship**). Especially useful for retrieving both singular and plural forms of a keyword

**Phrase Searching** Use double “quotation marks” to retrieve multiple words denoting single concept. (e.g. “**global warming**”) Searches for words as single term or that exact phrase w/no additional words between.

## GOVERNMENT WEB SITES

The U.S. government is the largest publisher in the world. They have the most money, the most experts and the most resources. Period. Any site that ends in .gov represents reliable, official information from the US Government. The trick is to know where to go:

### ***For Statistical Information:***

www.Fedstats.gov

This site serves as a gateway to statistics and reports from many, many government sites. You can search by “Agencies By Subject” for links, reports and statistics. You can also using “Data Access Tools” (for example, this will take you to the **National Center for Health Statistics**).

www.census.gov/compendia/statab/

The Statistical Abstract of the United States: Statistics on social and economic conditions in the United States, including births, death, disease, income, etc. from the US Census Bureau. Selected international data included.

### ***For legislative information***

www.thomas.gov

The Library of Congress THOMAS site is the source for federal legislative information. THOMAS provides several options for finding bills, resolutions, etc.

- You’ll want to know the **Bill number** (example: HR3200) or the **full name of the bill** (example: “*America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009*”) to effectively use this system, as it covers all legislation of the current congress.
- Use double quotes in phrase searching to limit results.

### ***For general information***

www.usa.gov

US Government's Official Web Portal for all government transactions, services, and information.