

## PHS Library Subscription Databases

The Piedmont High School Library website provides easy access to many subscription databases which have the full text of general interest magazines, scholarly journals, reference books, picture files, maps, and more. The library purchases these services because there is a great deal of proprietary, copyrighted information that is not available on free web sites accessed through regular search engines. Because these services are available only to subscribers, special user names and passwords are needed.

To access PHS databases follow these steps:

- Go to the PHS Library webpage <http://www.piedmont.k12.ca.us/phs/library/>
- Click Databases
- Under Premium Subscription Database, select the database of your choice
- If you are using a computer outside of school, use the log-ins given below

You are required to have at least one source of information from a database for your I-Search project. Here's a brief guide to selecting the best database for your topic:



1. **Gale Power Searching:** Useful for almost all topics as it contains general interest as well as specialized information in history, science and other fields. Because it contains so many sources, this database is extremely well organized and offers many tools to help you find the information you want.

You do not need a password from school computers. To access the database from computers outside the school, use this password on your handout.

Notice that information is organized into tabs across the top of the page: magazines, academic journals, books, news, multimedia and more results. Each of these offers ways to limit the search - see the left hand side-bar and click the drop down arrow next to "Limit by."

**Citing Articles from Gale Databases:**

- From any article, click "Citation Tools"
- Select MLA 7<sup>th</sup> edition button
- Click save, then open and copy and paste the citation into your Works Cited list



2. Wilson Web Science Full Text Select This is a science-only database which contains many technical articles that are written for an audience of researchers. Due to their highly technical terminology, these articles are not very useful. To eliminate these from your search, click "non-peer-reviewed" from the list of limiters.

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MLA citations are available by clicking the CITE button at top of page.



3. ABC-CLIO offers 4 choices: American History, World History, World Geography and Issues. The Issues database can be particularly useful for current topics, i.e. cheating in sports, gay rights, alternative medicine, etc.

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MLA Citations are at the end of each article or click "View All Citation Styles".



4. An excellent online encyclopedia offering web links, videos and other instructional materials.

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MLA Citations are included at the end of each article to copy and paste.