Welcome to the Mundt Library at Dakota State University.

This video will explain how to choose which database to use based on your subject. The learning objectives that will be addressed include: an understanding that the library databases are organized into categories, the ability to choose a database depending on need, and an understanding of how to access the subscription databases from off campus.

The library subscribes to multiple periodical databases which give you electronic access to a variety of newspapers, magazines, journals, and conference proceedings. Each of these databases are different so one of your first decisions when conducting research is to decide which database to use. The library has organized the databases to help you with that decision.

When you are going to use the library’s databases you must first go to the library’s homepage at library.dsu.edu. From here choose the link to Databases by Subject in the center column. You will be able to choose your Subject from the Subject Dropdown menu.

You must first decide which subject area your research topic falls under. As an example let’s say our topic deals with education. After clicking on Education, we are given a list of databases which contain material related to education. Within the descriptive paragraph beneath the databases, we can find out more information about what materials are contained in each.

There are also two symbols that you should be aware of in relation to the databases. The green Best Bet button signifies that this database is one of the best within the subject and may be a good starting point for your research. These will be the first database listed. The lock symbol means access to the database is restricted to students, faculty, and staff of DSU. If you are off campus and trying to use these databases, you will need to sign in using your library ID.

By using the research database by subject feature, you will be able to quickly determine which databases have resources related to your topic and be able to begin your research. If you have any questions on the periodical databases or any questions, please feel free to ask a librarian.

In this video you learned how using research databases by subject will allow you to access resources for your research both on and off campus.