Choosing a Search Tool

There is a difference between the "free web"—that is, information that can be accessed through a search engine such as Google or AltaVista—and subscription databases that are accessible on the Internet but are "invisible" to typical search engines.

The free web: The Internet is a worldwide system of computer networks; when using search engines such as Google or AltaVista, you are actually searching the "free" parts of the Internet. Your searches will lead you to websites, and it is important to remember that *anyone* can create a website. Therefore, it is critical to evaluate a website's content for accuracy and reliability.

Subscription databases: The library provides access to many databases that are accessible through the Internet (in other words, you must have Internet access in order to use them), but the content is not found using normal search engines. These databases are therefore part of the "invisible" web. These databases are not free—in fact many are quite expensive—but students have access to them through the library (which has paid for such access). These databases contain published material, such as newspaper, magazine, and encyclopedia articles. Content has been checked for reliability and accuracy.
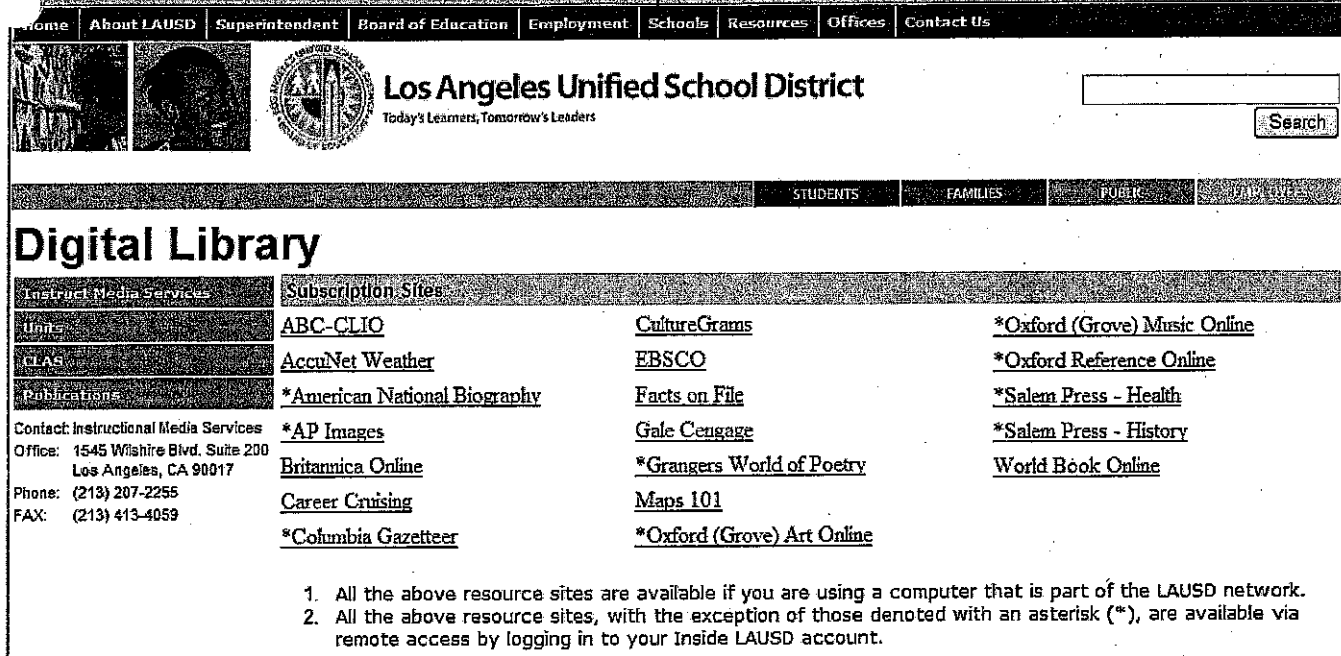
When should I use a search engine (for the free web) and when should I consult a subscription database (part of the "invisible web")?

Use a **search engine** when you:	Use **databases** when you want:
- want to go to a specific website - have a narrow or unusual topic or have several keywords - want to retrieve a large number of documents for your topic - want government information and forms - want to search for particular types of documents, file types, languages, etc. *are willing to evaluate the web site's content!*	- newspaper articles - magazine/journal articles - encyclopedia articles - biographical information - published material that has gone through a review and editing process, ensuring a greater likelihood of accuracy and reliability

LAUSD Digital Library Resources (Subscription Databases for the Deep Web)

<u>To access:</u>   http://www.lausd.net → Students →Digital Library → Digital Library link (under students heading)

OR   www.roosevelthighschoollibrary → Home page → Digital Library link (under students heading)

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Los Angeles Unified School District
Today's Learners, Tomorrow's Leaders

Search

STUDENTS   FAMILIES   PUBLIC   EMPLOYEES

Digital Library

Instruct Media Services

Units
CLAS
Publications

Contact: Instructional Media Services
Office: 1545 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Phone: (213) 207-2255
FAX: (213) 413-4059

Subscription Sites

ABC-CLIO	CultureGrams	*Oxford (Grove) Music Online
AccuNet Weather	EBSCO	*Oxford Reference Online
*American National Biography	Facts on File	*Salem Press - Health
*AP Images	Gale Cengage	*Salem Press - History
Britannica Online	*Grangers World of Poetry	World Book Online
Career Cruising	Maps 101	
*Columbia Gazetteer	*Oxford (Grove) Art Online	

1. All the above resource sites are available if you are using a computer that is part of the LAUSD network.
2. All the above resource sites, with the exception of those denoted with an asterisk (*), are available via remote access by logging in to your Inside LAUSD account.

<u>English</u>
- EBSCO (*Literary Reference Center*)
- Facts on File (*Bloom's Literary Reference Online*)
- Grangers World of Poetry

<u>History/Government</u>
- ABC-Clio
- CultureGrams
- EBSCO (*History Reference Center*)
- Facts on File (*U.S. Government; World News Digest; Issues and Controversies; Issues and Controversies in American History; American History; American Women's History; African-American History; American Indian History; Modern World History; Ancient and Medieval History*)

<u>Geography</u>	<u>Biography</u>
- CultureGrams - Facts on File (*World Geography and Culture*) - Maps101	- American National Biography - Gale Cengage (*Biography in Context*)
<u>Science/Health</u>	<u>Health</u>
- EBSCO (*Science Resources; Science Reference Center*) - Facts on File (*Science Online; Today's Science*) - Gale Cengage (*Science in Context*)	- EBSCO (*Health Information*) - Facts on File (*Health Reference Center*)
<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Math</u>
- Grangers World of Poetry	- Facts on File (*Curriculum Resource Center*)
<u>Art</u>	<u>News Photos</u>
- Oxford Art Online - Oxford Music Online	- AP Images
<u>General Encyclopedias</u>	<u>General Research</u>
- Britannica Online - Oxford Reference Online - World Book Online	- EBSCO (*Student Research Center; Magazines & Newspapers*) - Gale Cengage (*Student Resource Center; General Reference Center*) <u>If researching controversial topics:</u> - Gale Cengage (*Opposing Viewpoints*) - Facts on File (*Issues and Controversies*)