An introduction to Digital Maine Library

The Digital Maine Library, a collection of 100+ databases covering a variety of subjects, provides every resident of Maine with access to online resources that include a collection of full text articles and abstracts from magazines, newspapers, journals and reference. It also provides students, business people, public library patrons, and higher education students and educators the ability to use online learning tools.

List and description of all the databases: https://library.digitalmaine.org/all-databases/

Video Tutorials

Maine State Library Academy offers a wide variety of video tutorials not only on the Digital Maine Library databases, but also on topics such as social media.

Visit: https://my.nicheacademy.com/msl

Accessing DML

The Digital Maine Library may be accessed from any public, school or academic library in Maine. Access is also available from your home or business in Maine. Access from out of state is available with a valid Maine library card.

You will need an Internet connection for your computer or any other device that accesses the Internet. Geo-location is the first layer of authentication. This confirms that you are located in Maine and eligible to use the resources.
When connecting to a resource you will either see a geo-location message like below:

![Digital Maine Library Geo-Location Message]

Or you may see a login page as seen below - most likely when accessing from out of state or on a mobile phone if you do not "share your location" or have location services turned off in your browser (e.g. Safari, Chrome, IE, Firefox.).

![Maine's Digital Library Login Page]

Creating an Account

Since implementing geolocation/authentication you are unlikely to be required to set up an account. If you need to create an account or need more information, visit:

https://library.digitalmaine.org/about/getting-started-with-digital-maine-library/#createaccount
**Health Databases**

To view the health databases, navigate to halfway down on the home page, select **Health** from the subject box.

![Digital Maine Library](image)

Health Databases:
- American FactFinder
- **Health and Wellness Resource Center**
- Health Reference Center Academic
- **MEDLINE Plus**
- Nursing and Allied Health Collection
- Physical Therapy & Sports Medicine Collection
- Psychology Collection
- PubMed

The databases in **BOLD** will be the best databases to use for your assignment.
Search Demonstration

**Topic:** Liver Cancer  

**Databases:** MEDLINE Plus, Health and Wellness Resource Center

If I know limited information about liver cancer, I might start with **MEDLINE Plus**.

This database provides general health information about many different health topics, drugs, and supplements, and also provides additional tools such as videos, games, quizzes, and more. MEDLINE Plus also contains a Medical Encyclopedia which provides basic information about medical topics.

Navigate to **Health Topics ➔ Cancers** (Under the heading “Disorders and Conditions”) ➔ **Liver Cancer**

These topic pages provide you with the basics, as well as additional research and resources such as patient handouts.

If I need more in-depth information, I might try the **Health and Wellness Resource Center**.

This database offers access to full-text medical journals, magazines, reference works, multimedia, and much more. Perfect for researchers at all levels, this comprehensive consumer health resource provides authoritative information on the full range of health-related issues, from current disease and disorder information to in-depth coverage of alternative medical practices.

We want to use the **Advanced Search**, as opposed to the Basic Search. This allows me to use more filters (limiters) to narrow down my search results.

The default is set to search in the **Keyword** field, but you can also search by **Abstract** or **Subject**. See below for the definitions of these search fields.
**Full Text Documents**: This option is automatically selected. It simply means that the system is providing the documents to which you have immediate access and removing any documents that only obtain a citation or abstract/summary.

**Quotation Marks**: Enclose your search term in quotation marks to search your words as a phrase (i.e. Searching “Liver Cancer” returns 11,732 results vs. searching Liver Cancer with 13,442 results).

**Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT)**: Place an AND between each term and the results will contain both keywords. Use AND when adding additional keywords to the original search terms (e.g. Liver cancer AND treatment).

Place an OR between terms and the results will have one of the keywords. OR gives you MORE. Use OR to include synonyms (i.e. Cancer OR Tumor).

Use NOT between keywords to exclude terms from your search (i.e. Caner NOT Crab).

**Peer-Reviewed Journals**: A journal with articles that are evaluated prior to publishing by professionals/experts in the appropriate field.
Search: Step-by-Step

STEP 1 Search Liver Cancer by Keyword. If we search by keyword and type Liver cancer in the search box, we will return results from several different content types including Reference, Images, Magazine, Videos, Audio, News, & Academic Journals.

Results: 13,442

STEP 2 Change the search field to Subject. Searching by subject, the topic of the material, will provide the most relevant results.

Results: 7,714

STEP 3 Limit the results by Publication Date. Most medical information is considered current if it is within the last 5 years.

Results: 2,353

STEP 4 Narrow the results by Subject. This is a good way to break a larger topic or concept down into specific sub-topics or subjects. In this case, we will select the subject of Cancer Treatment.

Results: 125

STEP 5 Select a Source Type. For this assignment, Academic Journals and Reference will provide the most relevant materials.

Results: 22

STEP 6 Manage your results. Once you found an article you like, click on the title to view it. You will find the following:

Title of Article & Title of Journal

Links to return to Results & Advanced Search Screen

Audio version of the article

Date of Publication

Information and Images courtesy of the Maine State Library: Digital Maine Library