The Library provides access to several dozen databases. In general, the term “database” refers to information organized in some way to allow for easy retrieval. This could be a collection of articles published in academic journals that cover the latest research being done in a particular field, such as Academic OneFile, it could be the contents of magazines published online as well as in print, such as General Reference Center, or it could be a collection of writings on a topic that have been previously published in various formats, such as Opposing Viewpoints.

Start from the library page:  [http://library.tctc.edu/home/databases](http://library.tctc.edu/home/databases)

There is an alphabetical listing of our databases.

**Academic OneFile**

This database covers all subject fields, and contains several million articles. The default search type is a “Keyword” search, which looks for the term in several different areas of the journal article. You may want to change the search type to “Subject,” especially if you already know the Library of Congress subject heading that best describes your topic.

**Opposing Viewpoints**

This is the premiere resource covering today’s hottest social issues, from Offshore Drilling to Climate Change, Health Care to Immigration. Opposing Viewpoints helps students research, analyze and organize a broad variety of data for conducting research, completing writing assignments, preparing for debates, creating presentations and more.
Searching Academic OneFile

8/3/2016

Note that the default search type is “basic”. This is a keyword search, so you will probably want to change it to “subject”.

However, if your topic is very large, it may be helpful for you to see how it has been subdivided into smaller areas. From the main database page, click on the “Subject Guide Search” button.

A “Subject Guide Search” for full text, peer-reviewed journal articles about Capital Punishment gives you the option of looking at the smaller, more specific subdivisions of the topic. Click on the green plus sign to see the list. The subdivisions group articles about your main topic according to their focus.

Evaluating Your Results

Do you understand most of the words in the title? If you do not, it is unlikely that you will understand the content.

Who wrote it? Who is the intended audience? Any journal with “law review” in the title contain articles written by and for lawyers.

How long is it? Generally the lengthier the article, the more technical the writing.

Subdivisions of Capital Punishment

- Economic aspects
- Ethical aspects
- Evaluation
- Evidence
- Government finance
- History
- Influence
- International aspects
- Interpretation and construction
- Laws, regulations and rules