

Finding and using databases

Databases belong to the "Deep Web", the "hidden" part of the World Wide Web. Your content is hidden from search engines. You need special strategies to find them.

Search Engine results may contain the start pages of databases, but not their contents. If you only use search engines, you won't find most of the information on the Internet! Databases form a large part of the "Deep Web", the "deep" or "hidden" World Wide Web. Many questions can be answered by content from databases, but not by search engine queries.

Unlike search engines, databases do not search the World-Wide Web. You do not get your data by unstructured searching, but by entering structured data.

The research problem is to find the relevant databases at all. There are several strategies for this.

Who runs the database?

Building and operating a database (keeping the information contained up to date) is laborious and expensive. Nobody does it for fun, whoever does it has an interest. You often find databases by the simple question of who should have them.

Example: a database of architects in Hamburg is operated by the Hamburg Chamber of Architects. After all, she wants to apply for her members.

Search engine queries for databases

In queries to search engines (SEs), content and formal search words can be combined. If you search for databases via architecture, you can query "architecture datenbank". Such queries should always be formulated in English.

Suitable formal search words:

✓ **database OR directory OR catalogue OR list**

Important: With such combinations of search words one may not search for the desired contents of the data base (these do not find search machines, as said,!), but for the topic of the data base.

For example, if you are looking for oranges from Spain as a commodity, you should look for a database for suppliers and then for Spanish orange merchants.

Weblinks in the Wikipedia

Often one finds references to databases in the "Weblinks" of the thematic articles of Wikipedia. Similar to search engines, you should always check the English version of Wikipedia and other relevant languages.



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Categories of Wikipedia

Some categories (keywords) in Wikipedia lead to databases, namely:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Databases> ,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Digital_libraries ,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Scholarly_databases ,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Scholarly_search_services ,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Bibliographic_databases_and_indexes ,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:Scientific_databases .

<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kategorie:Datenbank> ,
<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kategorie:Online-Datenbank> ,
<https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kategorie:Datenarchiv> ,

Lists in the Wikipedia

Finally you can find lists of databases in the Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_academic_databases_and_search_engines ,
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_online_databases .

Databases of databases

The Database Information System (DBIS) enables the use of 11,554 scientific databases (4,754 of which are free on the Internet). The paid databases can be used in 307 scientific libraries.

The databases are offered sorted by subject. In addition, there is also an advanced search, in which, among other things, a keyword search is possible or a search for databases with a geographical reference.

<http://www.bibliothek.uni-regensburg.de/dbinfo/> .

You'll find English compilations on databases if you just insert "**A * Z Databases**" at a search engine.

This compilation is (by far) not complete, but only a first approach to the topic. I am very interested in additions and corrections and I am happy about every hint.



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