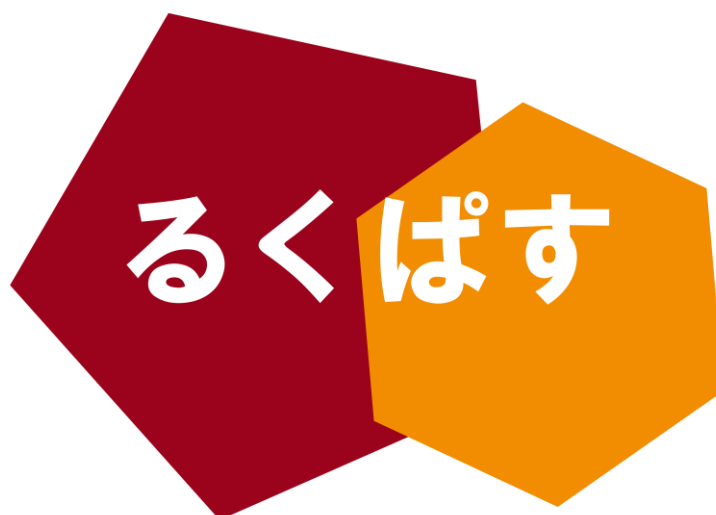


Thematic Pathfinder



Using the Library Databases



What is a “Pathfinder” ?

The word “pathfinder” means someone who is the first to find a way across a new area, in other words, a pioneer. These booklets were made to help you find your way, if you ever get stuck during writing your thesis or paper. You could call them “Academic Signposts.”

Introduction

◀ About the databases of the Library

Did you know that our Library offers a vast array of online resources waiting for you to take advantage of? There are more than sixty different databases for you to use. These include, but not limited to newspapers, academic papers, lexicons and dictionaries on subjects ranging from chemistry to folklore. You will surely find something of use in here.

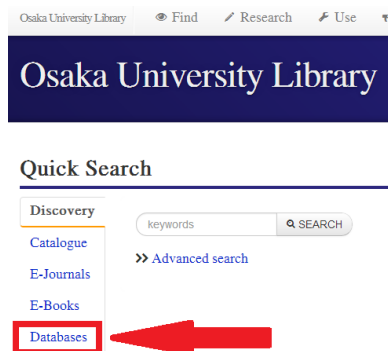
I. Accessing the databases

To gain access to the databases, first open the homepage of the Osaka University Library (<http://www.library.osaka-u.ac.jp>).

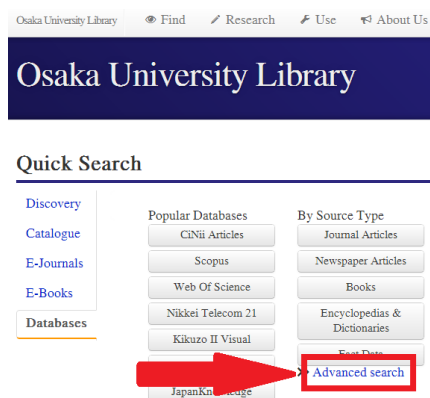
Next click on the “Eng” button in the upper menu to change the language settings to English.



Then click on “Databases” and a list of the most commonly used databases will come up.



Click on “Advanced Search” to see a full list of the available databases.



If you click on “Filters”, you can narrow down the list to only those databases that interest you.



Here you can select your preferred “Subject” and “Source Type” by clicking on the checkboxes. Next, click on “Refine” to update the list.



II. Access types

There are two types of different databases.

◀ **Databases accessible inside the campus only.**

These databases can be accessed either from your own computer or from one of the computers provided by Osaka University, as long as you are connected to the internet via the servers provided by the University (i.e odins-1x. odinswlan, etc.)

◀ **“Off Campus Access”.**

These databases you can access from anywhere using your personal ID and password. (The same ID and password, which you use to access the KOAN). First access the website of “My Handai” (<https://my.osaka-u.ac.jp/>) then click on “Databases” to open the website of the library.

Some of the databases have limitations regarding the number of simultaneous accesses. If you experience any problems accessing a database, please try again later. Also make sure not to use the databases for unnecessary long time and thus block others from accessing them.

III. Practical ideas for using the databases

In this section we would like to give you some ideas about how you can utilize the provided databases.

◀ **AnthroSource**

Full-text database of the American Anthropological Association. You can find here papers on social topics such as gender or religion of the various countries of the World. These can be especially helpful if you are writing about a cultural phenomena in a comparative perspective. (English website only. All text is in English).

◀ **CiNii Articles (Scholarly and Academic Information Navigator)**

With this search engine you can look up most of the academic papers published in Japan. Many available in full readable text as well. These papers can be referenced in your work written on almost any kind of topic. Using CiNii can greatly fasten your research and improve your paper. (English website is available. Papers are mostly in Japanese, occasionally other languages are available as well).

◀ **JapanKnowledge Lib**

Collection of dictionaries and reference works in Japanese. The *Nihongo Kokugo Daijiten* is the most complete dictionary of the Japanese language. It can not only be used as a tool for translating, but it can be also referenced in any matter related to Japan. (English website is available. Dictionaries are mostly in Japanese.)

◀ **KOD (Kenkyusha Online Dictionary)**

Large collection of Japanese to English and English to Japanese dictionaries. Combined with an English dictionary of your own language, this website can be a great tool for translating. (Japanese website only.)

◀ **Library PressDisplay**

You can access the daily newspapers from around the World on this site. It can be very helpful if you are writing a paper about current topics. (Website is available in many different languages.)

◀ **New York Times collection**

You can access articles from 1851 to up to today on one of the World's leading newspapers. It can be used in almost any topic from the last 150 years.

◀ **Yomiuri Shimbun Yomidasu Rekishikan, Kikuzo II Visual, Mainichi Shimbun Maisaku**

Searchable, full-text databases of Yomiuri, Asahi and Mainichi newspapers dating back to the Meiji-period. They can be utilized in any topic related to Japan. It can be interesting to see what the public view was used to be on certain topics in the past.

These are but a few examples of how the databases of our library can help you in your work. Make sure to take a look at the full list of the available online resources as well.