Why Do We Need Library Databases?

Sometimes you hear people say that since we have everything on the Internet, we can stop spending money on library resources. I say "not so fast!"

Let's say you have to write a college research paper. You've always just used web search engines like Google to find information before. Why use Library databases? Here are seven good reasons:

1. **Not everything is on the Internet.**
   There is a lot of useful information on the Web. Unfortunately, this often leads to the idea that everything you need for college-level research can be found on the Web. This simply isn't true. There are tons of published materials (magazines, newspapers, journals, ebooks, etc.) that you can't find using a search engine like Google.

2. **Not everything on the Internet is free.**
   Much of the Web consists of sites that make you pay if you want to get into their website or download their stuff. You can use the Library's databases to find what you need without spending your own money. Usually the Library has already paid for the same content using your student tuition and fees. Don't pay again!

3. **There is no quality control on the Internet.**
   On the Web you can find high-quality, useful information. But you can also find plenty of lies, misconceptions, and half-truths. The articles you'll learn how to find in our online databases originally appeared in real paper newspapers, magazines, and journals. You might not agree with every word they say, but there was an editorial process. There was some quality control.

4. **The Internet is a mile wide and an inch deep.**
   Maybe you've found 20 websites on your topic, but they all give you the same four or five facts without very much detail. For more varied and in-depth analyses, try using Library's ebooks, and articles in databases.

5. **Online Library resources are available 24/7.**
   Most of the time, you don't have to come to the library in order to use its collections. The LCC Library offers article databases and ebooks accessible 24/7 via the Library's website.

6. **Real live highly-trained people can help you use the Library.**
   Do you know that all librarians must have a Master's degree in Library and Information Science? Librarians are trained to help you find the information you're looking for, no matter what the topic is, no matter if you need help using a database or one of the library's other online resources. Don't spend hours and hours looking for information on the Web. Ask a librarian! LCC librarians are available in person, by phone, and chat via our website.

7. **College students who use the library get better grades.**
   Studies have shown that students who use library resources have higher GPA's.