Librarian's Shelf by Karen Stuart

Two Reference Databases to Try

Columbus Public Library wants to offer you more databases to meet your information and entertainment needs, so we are offering a one month trial of two databases. A to Z Databases is a marketing database that gives details such as number of employees, revenue for the year, and more on every business in the United States. The Gale Virtual Reference Library is a digital collection of the 50 newest and most popular reference encyclopedias in public libraries. Try them out by the end of April and let us know what you think by emailing library@columbusne.us or contacting the reference desk at 402-564-7116.

A to Z Databases is a user-friendly reference and marketing database designed to find information on every business, and household within the United States. Small business owners can use this database to find sales leads and mailing lists to grow their business, entrepreneurs can search similar businesses and competitors, and job seekers can search businesses by industry, company size, and location. Government agencies can use A to Z Databases to gather employment statistics and map data, while non-profit organizations can search income, home values, and charitable giving history of residents in Columbus.

This database compiles information on 30 million businesses, 33 million executives with 8 million email addresses, 200 million residents, and 90 million homeowners and new movers added weekly. They pull their information from annual reports, corporate registers, filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, National Change of Address reports, voter registration information, and much more. A to Z Databases also understands that no database of business and household information can be 100% up to date at all times, and offer users a chance to submit updates. For example, the Columbus Public Library listing provides our previous director and website information. As a user of the database, I was able to submit an update to this information by clicking "Data Feedback" while in the library's listing.

To access A to Z Databases, visit http://www.atozdatabases.com and scroll to the bottom of the page. Under the column titled Administrator, click "Admin Sign In" and type "library@columbusne.us" for the Username. After typing "library" for the password, click the green "Sign In" button.

From the makers of PowerSpeak Languages, Chilton Auto Library, Testing & Education Reference Center, and Books & Authors, comes the Gale Virtual Reference Library. From American Decades to Environmental Science, this database offers downloadable ebooks of encyclopedias. Users can search by term or browse by title or subject, including biography, education, history, law, medicine, science, and more. Choosing from 11 languages such as Spanish and French, users can also search, browse and read articles in their native language, or practice using a new language.

Once you've found an article, you have the option to view it in the web browser or as a pdf file. You can print, email, cite in MLA or APA format, or translate the article. If you prefer to listen to the article you can do so in the web browser or download the mp3 file. You can also download

the article to your computer or straight to your eReader with no hold lists or expiration. To start your search, visit http://galesites.com/trial/bridge/index.php and when prompted, use the password "spring" to log in.

Columbus Public Library is considering adding these databases to our E-Materials collection (www.columbusne.us/library and click the "E-Materials" link). We would appreciate if you tried them during the month and let us know by emailing library@columbusne.us or contacting the reference desk at 402-564-7116, if you think they would be a valuable resource for your community.