

Lecture no. 13

Department: Information and Library Science

Subject: Information Storage & Retrieval

Name of the lecture: Types of databases

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Types of data bases

Databases that available to information users in the public arena, and which might be accessed either online via an online search service, or more locally on CD-ROM, can be **categorized** as either **reference** or **source data bases**.

* **Reference data bases**: refer or point the user to another source such as a document, an organization or an individual for additional information, or for the full text of a document.

Examples include:

1. **Bibliographic databases**: which include citations or bibliographic reference, and sometimes abstracts of literature. They tell the user what has been written, in what kind of source it can be located (e.g. journal title, conference proceedings) and, if they provide abstracts, will summarize the original document.

2. **Catalogue data bases**: which shows the stock of a given library or library net work. Typically, such databases list which monographs, journal titles and other items the library has in stock, but do not give much information on the contents of these documents. They are a special type of bibliographic data base, so they are worth identifying as a separate category.

3. **Referral databases**: which offer references to information or data such as the names and addresses of organizations, and other directory-type data.

Bibliographic data bases contain a series of linked bibliographic records, with each record typically containing some combination of the following components:

- document number
- title
- author
- source reference
- abstracts
- full text
- indexing words or phrases
- citation, or number of references
- organization originating the documents, or author's address, or both
- language of the source document
- local information such as classification numbers, or location.

The components listed above do not give the information or the text of the source document, but only point to where the information might be found. In many data bases an abstract will also be included for each reference.

* **Source databases:** contain the original source data, and are one type of electronic document. After successful consultation of a source data base, the user should have the information that is required and should not need to seek information in an original source (as in case with reference data bases). Data are available in machine-readable form instead of, or as well as, printed form. Source data bases can be grouped according to their content:

1. **Numeric databases:** which contain numerical data of various kinds, including statistics and survey data.
2. **Full-text data bases:** of newspaper items, technical specifications and software.
3. **Text-numeric data bases:** which contain a mixture of textual and numeric data (such as company annual reports) and handbook data.

4. Multimedia data bases: which Include information stored in a mixture of different types of media, including, for example, sound, video, pictures, text and animation.

* **Data base Models:** there are four different ways to logically represent and store information in the form of database these are: Hierarchal, relational, network, object oriented.

Reference

*Jennifer Rowley. The electronic library.-4th.ed.-London: Facet publishing, 2004.