

Electric Library

What is Electric Library?

Electric Library is a database that you can search to find the full text of articles from hundreds of popular magazines, scholarly journals and newspapers; transcripts of radio and television news shows; and a comprehensive map and picture file.

How do I get to Electric Library?

- Go to the Multnomah County Library Homework Center: www.multcolib.org/homework/
- Click on the words Homework Databases.
- Magazines, newspapers, radio and television (Electric Library)
- Type in your Multnomah County Library card number, and your PIN number, and click on the Continue button (skip this step if you are at a Multnomah County Library location).

Searching Electric Library

Below is the main search screen for Electric Library:

Type of Search

Enter keywords and select source types

where does a snow leopard live? search

Natural Language Boolean Operator [Build Boolean Search](#)

newspapers magazines books maps pictures audio/video tv / radio transcripts

recent all

select all
clear all

Types of material to look for

- You can select from a natural language search (for example, Where does the snow leopard live?) or a Boolean search (for example, "snow leopard" AND habitat).
- You can also choose the kind of material to look for: magazine articles, newspaper articles, excerpts from books, pictures, maps, or TV and radio transcripts. If you don't want to include one of these in your search, click the check box so the check mark will disappear.
- If you know the name of the article, its author or the publication it appeared in, enter this information at the bottom of the screen in the Advanced Search box. You can also enter a date (or range of dates) to limit your search.
- When you're ready to search, click the Search button in the upper right corner of the screen.

The following screen shows search results.

The screenshot shows a search results page for the query "where does a snow leopard live?". At the top, it states "There are at least 4005 results for the query" and "Here are the best 250". A box labeled "Total items found" points to the number 250. Below this, there are icons for different resource types: newspapers (21), magazines (125), books (42), maps (0), pictures (4), audio/video (11), and tv / radio transcripts (47). A box labeled "Number of items found by type of resource" points to these counts. A "sort by:" dropdown menu is set to "Relevance". Below the filters, there are two search results for "New Baby Snow Leopard Makes His Debut At NY's Bronx Zoo" by Getty Images, both dated 14 Aug 2003. A box labeled "Reading Level (grade)" points to the "Reading Level: 0" field in the first result. On the right side, there is a "related subjects:" box listing "Winter", "Winter Animals", "Snow Leopard", "Wild Cats", "Leopards", and "Snow Leopard".

- The computer sorts the articles by putting the ones it thinks are most relevant (the most closely related to your topic) at the top. You can choose to sort in other ways, too: by date, or by reading level, for example.
- At the top of the screen, you can see the total number of documents found (on the right side) and the number found in each type of source.
- For each article, you can read the title, the name of source it came from, the author, the date, and the reading level (grade). (Note: The reading level is determined by a computer and may not indicate how hard the article is to understand.)
- To read the full text, click on the title.

Printing/Emailing an Article

When you are reading the full text of an article, you will see a box like the one below.

The screenshot shows a navigation bar with a red target icon on the left. To its right are the following buttons: "to best part", "printer friendly version", "document info", "email", and "add to my list" with a plus sign icon.

To email the article to yourself, click "email" and then type your full email address in the first box and click Send. (The other boxes are optional to fill in.)

- To print the article, click on the Printer Friendly Version button. It will bring up a plain-text version of the article that you can print from your browser.