

## Key LIS Databases – Which One Should You Use?

### Comparing Library Lit Full Text/Retrospective, LISA, and LISTA

All of these are available to SLIS students. Which is better? It depends. The coverage of these online indexes overlaps, but isn't identical. Their search interfaces, although different in appearance, offer standard options for formulating basic and complex searches, combining search terms, displaying results, and saving, printing and emailing results.

	<b>Library Literature &amp; Information Science Full Text, and Library Literature &amp; Information Science Retrospective</b>	<b>Library &amp; Information Science Abstracts (LISA)</b>	<b>Library, Information Science &amp; Technology Abstracts with Full Text (LISTA)</b>
<b>Where to Access?</b>	Listed on the <a href="#">database page for Library &amp; Information Science</a>	See the <a href="#">SLIS website</a> for information on accessing the LISA database.	Listed on the <a href="#">database page for Library &amp; Information Science</a>
<b>Geographic Scope</b>	Emphasis on English-language, American publications, with some foreign publications	Emphasis on English-language publications, but with strong selection of publications in other languages.	Emphasis on English-language publications, but with strong selection of publications in other languages
<b>Subject Coverage</b>	Strong coverage of librarianship, but has added more information science in recent years.	Strong coverage of both librarianship and information science and related fields.	Strong coverage of both librarianship and information science and related fields
<b>Time Coverage</b>	Indexing back to 1984 in main database, and back to 1905 in Library Lit Retrospective	Indexing back to 1969	Indexing back to mid-1960's
<b>Number of Periodicals Indexed</b>	The Library Lit Full Text database indexes around 400 periodicals, and the Retrospective database over 1,500	Indexes over 400 periodicals	Indexes over 600 periodicals, some cover-to-cover and others selectively
<b>Which Periodicals are Indexed</b>	List of indexed periodicals is available via WilsonWeb for the <a href="#">Full Text</a> database and for the <a href="#">Retrospective</a> database.	List of indexed periodicals on the <a href="#">Proquest-CSA website</a>	List of indexed periodicals is available via <a href="#">EBSCO</a> .
<b>Types of Publications</b>	Includes both scholarly journals, professional magazines, books, chapters, and library school thesis	Includes scholarly journals, professional magazines, and technical journals	Includes both scholarly journals and professional magazines, along with technical journals, conference proceedings, books and research reports

<b>Type of Content - Articles, etc.</b>	Includes feature articles, short news articles, books, book reviews, and more	Emphasizes feature articles and book reviews	Includes feature articles, short news articles, books, book reviews, and more
<b>Full Text?</b>	Contains some full-text articles from around 155 periodicals, as part of the database since 1997	Contains no full-text articles as part of the database, but does include links to full-text in other electronic resources	The database contains full text for more than 240 journals
<b>Abstracts?</b>	Includes some abstracts in newer citations	Includes abstracts for all citations	Includes abstracts for all citations
<b>Cross-Database Searching</b>	Can combine search with any of the other SJSU Wilson databases.	Can combine search with any of the other SJSU CSA databases. Can create your own group of "preferred databases."	Can combine search with any of the other SJSU EBSCO databases
<b>Thesaurus</b>	Searchable thesaurus of subject terms	Searchable thesaurus of subject terms	Searchable thesaurus of subject terms
<b>Special Features and Research Tools</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links to web sites cited in articles</li> <li>• Displays recent search history on the results page</li> <li>• GetText links to full text in other electronic resources provided by the SJSU library</li> <li>• Searches can be limited upfront to peer-reviewed articles only</li> <li>• You can create "alerts" and be notified by email or RSS feed when new content of interest to you is added to the database</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GetText links to full text in other electronic resources provided by the SJSU library</li> <li>• In the search results, peer reviewed articles are displayed separately</li> <li>• You can create "alerts" and be notified by email or RSS feed when new content of interest to you is added to the database</li> <li>• Includes scholar profiles</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Searches can be limited upfront to peer-reviewed articles only</li> <li>• You can search for cited references</li> <li>• "Visual Search" displays results as mapped topical clusters</li> <li>• Includes author profiles</li> <li>• Search results can be saved to "folders" and shared with others</li> </ul>

Question? Contact LIS Liaison Librarian Lorene Sisson, Phone: (408) 808-2044; Email: [sisson@sjsu.edu](mailto:sisson@sjsu.edu)

Table above based on a chart prepared by Sue Searing, LIS Librarian, Univ. of Illinois, modified 5/2009 by Sharon Marcacci, Librarian, SJSU