**Database “Speed Dating” Lesson Plan**

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Below is an overview on how to administer this activity, including timing cues. This activity is intended for a computer classroom, where students have access to the library’s online databases.

**Directions:**

Before the class, identify 10-20 databases in this discipline that students are likely to use. Create a list and use it as a sign-up sheet (example on the next page).

In class:

1. Pass around the sign-up sheet, and instruct students to copy the name of their database onto their worksheet. (1 min). While students are signing up, go over the next steps of this activity.
2. Students complete Part A independently (10 min).
3. Split the class into two groups. Half will stay seated, half will rotated each round. Display or circulate the “rules of database speed dating” (below).
4. Set up a timer (works best if you have a screen to display the time remaining) with 3 minutes on the clock. Each student gets 1 minute to deliver their elevator speech, with 30 seconds in between for questions. The other student fills out Part B on their worksheet, recording their observations.
5. Do three 3-minute rounds total (15 min).
6. After students have interviewed three databases each, have them return to their computers to complete Part C.

**Rules for Speed Dating**

1. Keep your elevator speech short and to the point. Take no more than 1 minute to summarize the key features of your database.
2. Listen carefully to your partner, and take notes on the pros and cons you hear in their speech.
3. When directed, move promptly to the next station.

**Database Sign-Up Sheet**

Update this list to reflect the databases students should choose from.

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| **Database** | **Sign Up** |
| BioOne Online Journals |  |
| BIOSIS Previews |  |
| Science Direct |  |
| SciFinder |  |
| Biodiversity Heritage Library |  |
| GenBank |  |
| GreenFile |  |
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