

How to Find Information For School Assignments

TOPIC: Natural Disasters

- Earthquakes
- Hurricanes
- Tornadoes
- Volcanoes
- Tsunamis

LIBRARY CATALOG

Go to www.lapl.org > **Browse the Catalog** > type your search

Search for books on the subject of your report

HINT: Do a KEYWORD search using one or two words for the topic. Example: hurricanes, earthquakes, tornados, natural disasters.

USE DATABASES FOR INFORMATION FROM BOOKS, MAGAZINES, NEWSPAPERS AND WEB SITES

- www.lapl.org
- click ACCESS THE DATABASES
Student Sources is a great place to start

ENCYCLOPEDIA (topic overview)

Worldbook Encyclopedia Online

Includes articles, pictures and links to reliable websites.

AccessScience (McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science & Technology)

Includes articles, pictures and links to reliable websites.

MAGAZINE & NEWSPAPER DATABASES (current news)

Infotrac OneFile

Research Library (ProQuest)

Los Angeles Times Historical (1881-1985)

Hint: Do a KEYWORD search using one or two words for the topic.

SUBJECT DATABASES

Discovering Collection

Find basic, introductory information on your topic. Includes articles, pictures, multi-media presentations and links to reliable websites.

WEBSITES and SEARCH ENGINES

Topic Websites:

CBS News Disaster Links

Links to disaster-related websites, arranged in broad categories such as biological and chemical weapons, contamination, hurricanes and severe weather

<http://www.cbsnews.com/digitaldan/disaster/disasters.shtml>

PlanetDiary

Provides a weekly update of articles on the environment, focusing on events such as floods, fire, fauna, flora, earthquakes, drought, health, volcanoes, oil spills, radioactivity, hurricanes, tornadoes, and tropical storms.

<http://www.phschool.com/science/planetdiary/>

National Weather Service National Hurricane Center/Tropical Prediction Center

Current and historical storm information, including public advisories in English and Spanish. Includes satellite imagery, weather radar, and PDA-accessible updates. The "Learn About Hurricanes" section links to extensive information. "Season Summaries and Reports" has information on activity in the Atlantic and East Pacific regions.

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>

Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI): Situation Reports

Covers natural disasters, humanitarian response, emergency services, and volunteer organizations.

http://www.cidi.org/sit_rep.htm

Earthquake Image Information System

More than 15,000 images of earthquake damage. Searchable and browsable by earthquake, structure name, subject keyword, and photographer.

<http://nisee.berkeley.edu/eqiis.html>

Understanding Earthquakes

This site includes quizzes, maps, historical information, links to other sites, animations of fault lines, and personal accounts.

<http://www.crustal.ucsb.edu/ics/understanding/>

Volcano World

Features current volcano activity around the world, specific volcanoes, and volcanic parks. Searchable, and browsable by world region, country or area, or volcano name.

Pacific Tsunami Museum

The Hilo, Hawaii museum's Web site includes an archive of historic photographs, answers to frequently asked questions, and links to other useful tsunami sites.

<http://www.tsunami.org/>

Online Tornado FAQ

This list of Frequently Asked Questions provides a "quick-reference summary of tornado knowledge." It covers forecasting, climatology, damage, spotting and chasing, safety, research, and history. Many of the answers include related links and pictures to more detailed information.

<http://www.spc.noaa.gov/faq/tornado/>

**Search Engines: Don't forget to EVALUATE the reliability & accuracy of websites!
Ask a librarian for a list of questions to ask yourself about a site.**

Librarians' Internet Index

A specialized search engine that offers access to previously viewed and approved sites by librarians.

<http://www.lii.org>

Google

<http://www.google.org>

Hint: Use the ADVANCED search option.