

## Using Dialog Classic

### What

Dialog is a service which provides access to over 470 databases of information—more information than all of the other Simmons databases combined. Dialog Classic uses a command language interface and requires trained searchers to run well-planned and precise searches in order to retrieve information.

### When

Because it is prohibitively expensive, Dialog is generally only used when other available resources are inadequate.

### Why

Dialog is a specialized tool, and is not used everywhere. However, learning to use Dialog Classic and its command language will make you a better searcher, in general, and those search skills will be transferable to whatever database you might use most.

### How

If you are using Dialog for a course, you will be given a personal password by the instructor. If you'd just like to practice your search skills, you can utilize a free practice area on the Dialog web site. You will be able to search a limited chunk of some databases by using temporary log in information. See: [http://training.dialog.com/sem\\_info/ontap\\_pw.html](http://training.dialog.com/sem_info/ontap_pw.html)

### Learning Resources

- To view guides to the various databases and subjects covered by Dialog, see: <http://library.dialog.com/bluesheets/>
- For descriptions and examples of how to use all the commands see “Successful Searching on Dialog.” Descriptions are presented in alphabetical dictionary format for easy access: <http://support.dialog.com/searchaids/success/>
- There are in-depth tutorials available under the heading “Introduction to Dialog Online Training” at: <http://training.dialog.com/tours/>