

Eight: Students research popular and scientific literature

Following the conclusion of the class experiment, student teams can select one of the following pathways to explore:

- What is the effect of varying temperature on yeast catalase activity?
- What is the effect of varying pH on yeast catalase activity?
- Compare the activity of catalase from two different sources. Catalase activity in plant tissue (lettuce, potato, carrots etc.) homogenates can easily be studied in the lab.
- Continue working with yeast catalase and vary the procedure and equipment used to get more quantitative data.

This is a good time for students to do some library/internet research to find background information relating to one of these pathways.

Many levels of searches are possible:

Students can begin simply, by looking up general information about enzymes in library databases like SIRS and Proquest. They can look at public web sites like "Genes and disease" <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/disease/>.

Encourage students to start with general information and then gradually help them to find information that is more specific to the experiment that they are planning. Use Internet search engines to look for:

1. Information relating temperature or pH to enzyme activity
2. Information about catalase
3. Information about catalase from fruits and vegetables

As they gain experience locating and understanding information ... search in GenBank and PubMed, navigating to the National Center for Biotechnology Information web site at **<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/>**.