

Search Smart!

Race webinar May 2012, Updated August 2012

Stop and Think (or Reference Interview)

- ❖ what do you need?
- ❖ what is your purpose?
- ❖ where would be the best place to start?
- ❖ what do you already know?

Visualize

- ❖ Imagine the answer, not the results
- ❖ Search for the terms and phrases that would appear in the answer

Google

- ❖ Useful for:
 - Newly updated information (how many gold medals the US has won while the Olympics is going on)
 - Local information (event that is occurring in your community this weekend)

Google Advanced search: (http://google.com/advanced_search)

[Advanced Search](#)

Find pages with...		To do this in the search box
all these words:	<input type="text" value="tesla coil"/>	Type the important words: tricolor rat terrier
this exact word or phrase:	<input type="text"/>	Put exact words in quotes: "rat terrier"
any of these words:	<input type="text"/>	Type OR between all the words you want: miniature OR standard
none of these words:	<input type="text"/>	Put a minus sign just before words you don't want: -rodent, -"Jack Russell"
numbers ranging from:	<input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/>	Put 2 periods between the numbers and add a unit of measure: 10..35 lb, \$300..\$500, 2010..2011

Then narrow your results by...		
language:	<input type="text" value="any language"/>	Find pages in the language you select.
region:	<input type="text" value="any region"/>	Find pages published in a particular region.
last update:	<input type="text" value="anytime"/>	Find pages updated within the time you specify.
site or domain:	<input type="text"/>	Search one site (like wikipedia.org) or limit your results to a domain like .edu, .org or .gov
terms appearing:	<input type="text" value="anywhere in the page"/>	Search for terms in the whole page, page title, or web address, or links to the page you're looking for.
SafeSearch:	<input type="checkbox"/> off <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> strict	Tell SafeSearch how much explicit sexual content to filter.
reading level:	<input type="text" value="no reading level displayed"/>	Find pages at one reading level or just view the level info.
file type:	<input type="text" value="any format"/>	Find pages in the format you prefer.
usage rights:	<input type="text" value="not filtered by license"/>	Find pages you are free to use yourself.

Google Advanced search guide: http://www.googleguide.com/advanced_operators_reference.html

- ❖ Printable pdf available
- ❖ Explains basic search + limiters

Search Alerts

- ❖ Search once—the results keep coming
- ❖ Google Search Alerts
 - Google Scholar
- ❖ Search alerts for journals
 - Proquest

Wikipedia

- ❖ Provides links to “official site” in sources cited

Bibliography

- ❖ Mine the sources cited for additional articles

Tips and Tricks to apply everywhere (disclaimer: not every trick will work everywhere)

- ❖ Advanced search
- ❖ Quotation marks = will locate the exact phrase
- ❖ Wildcards (? or #) =stand for one character in or at the end of a word. Search wom?n will find results for “woman” or “women.” Search educat?? will find educator or educated—it will NOT find education which contains more than two letters following educat.
- ❖ Truncation (*) = stands for any number of characters at the end of a word. Search comput* will find articles that contain computer, computerized, and computers
- ❖ Boolean (AND/OR/NOT)—often easy to construct in Advanced search view
 - Boolean machine (<http://kathyschrock.net/rbs3k/boolean/>)
- ❖ Search limiters = will vary by resource. Examples = article type, picture, journal
- ❖ Control-F = quickly find text on a page

Resources:

- ❖ Advanced Searching in Online Resources: Better Search Results are Easier Than You Think!
 - <http://library.sd.gov/LIB/DEV/training/race.aspx>
 - Archived webinar covering searching in subscription online resources
- ❖ SearchReSearch
 - <http://searchresearch1.blogspot.com/>
 - Blog about search, search skills, teaching search and search practice by Daniel M. Russell, a search engineer at Google.
- ❖ Google Search Education: Lesson Plans
 - <http://www.google.com/insidesearch/searcheducation/lessons.html>
 - Leveled lesson plans on picking search terms, understanding results, narrowing results, evaluating credibility and more.
- ❖ Inside Search: The Official Google search blog
 - <http://insidesearch.blogspot.com/>
 - Updates, tips and more from Google about search.
- ❖ Valenza, Joyce . "I hope you'll search (with skill): a revised letter to my grads." *Never Ending Search. School Library Journal*, 8 June 2011.
<http://blog.schoollibraryjournal.com/neverendingsearch/2011/06/08/i-hope-youll-search-with-skill-a-revised-letter-to-my-grads/>
- ❖ Boolean machine (<http://kathyschrock.net/rbs3k/boolean/>)
 - Visualize the effect of Boolean operators on a search
- ❖ Bergson-Michelson, Natasha. "Search Engine Results as the First Defense of Authority." *Knowledge Quest* 38.3 (2010): 9-13. *Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts*. EBSCO. Web. 5 Apr. 2011.(free online here: <http://tothepointresearch.com/publications/predict>)
- ❖ Predictive search webinars:
<https://sites.google.com/site/gwebsearcheducation/invitation-to-next-webinar>
- ❖ Webinars are archived. Tasha Bergson-Michelson will be presenting some upcoming sessions.
- ❖ Wikipedia as a Steppingstone resource (<http://searchme.typepad.com/search-me/2010/05/wikipedia-as-a-steppingstone-resource.html>)
- ❖ Teaching the Ten Steps to Better Web Research by Dulcinea Media (<http://www.slideshare.net/sweetsearch/teaching-the-ten-steps-to-better-web-research>)
 - Where to search
 - Try several searches
 - Dig deep for best results
 - Think before you search
 - Make search engines work for you
 - Question—don't believe everything you read!
 - Primary sources
 - Verify source—who published?
 - Why was article written
 - When was information written/last revised?