

Name _____ Class _____

Advanced Web Searching

What is your research topic or question? _____

What are the key words or phrases? _____

Related Words? _____

.....
Boolean: *This search strategy involves using more than one term to narrow or expand your result and combining the terms with Boolean operators (AND, OR, and NOT).*

AND: Limits Search

*Most of the time, you will want to limit your results to make them more manageable and of higher quality. By adding **AND** (or using + in some search engines) between terms, you are limiting your search to only those items described by all the terms you list. Some search engines (e.g., Google) use an implied AND, so it automatically searches for the combination of the words you enter in a string.*

Type in your key terms and write down the number of results. _____

Now, add other search terms to make your search more specific. (e.g., *Amazon rainforest destruction rate*). Write down the number of results. _____

What search string did you type in? _____

Why is there a difference? _____

OR: Expands Search

If you have a very specific keyword, you may not be getting enough results or the type of information that you want. Sometimes, it is better to increase the range of your results by adding OR between terms.

Type in your key terms and write down the number of results. _____

Now, type in **OR** and add another search term (e.g., *death penalty OR capital punishment*). Write down the number of results. _____

What did you type in? _____

Why is there a difference? _____

Exact Phrase

This type of searching involves putting quotation marks “ ” around a phrase or group of words so they will always be found next to each other .

Name _____ Class _____

For example, type in Brazil Rainforest. How many results? _____

Now, type in "Brazil Rainforest" and press enter. How many results? _____

Why is there a difference? _____

Do this type of search with your own topic and print out a result.

Title Search

This search strategy (using TI: before your search terms) limits your search to only those results with the key term in the title. Put the title in quotation marks to further restrict your results to the exact title (TI: Book Thief)

Now try it for yourself. [Remember: several search engines and databases give you the option to search only by Title.]

Why is it a useful technique? _____

Print out one of your results.

Excluding Terms

Sometimes, you will want to exclude certain terms if they interfere with the results that you want. For example, if you are doing research in forensics (as in debating), NOT forensic science, you will likely want any words relating to the former omitted: science, crime, blood, DNA, investigation, etc.

In databases, you can generally use NOT before a word or phrase (in quotation marks) that you want to exclude. In search engines, you may put a hyphen (-) before the concept to be excluded (although purchased placement results and ads for the excluded term will still be included in your results).

Use one of your own keywords and exclude terms that would give you results you did not like.

What did you type in? _____

What did you exclude? _____

Final Search String

Based on the results of these searches, determine the most effective combination of terms for gathering information on your topic. List the search string(s) below that you plan to use in your research, combining your key terms with appropriate Boolean operators and punctuation:

Advanced Searching - Review

Advanced searching involves using more than one term to narrow or expand your results.

1. AND

Using **and** between terms (pollution **AND** air):

- ☐ Gives you more results
- ☐ Gives you fewer results
- ☐ Has no effect

Why?

2. OR

Using **or** between terms (pollution **OR** smog):

- ☐ Gives you more results
- ☐ Gives you fewer results
- ☐ Has no effect

Why?

3. EXACT PHRASE

What does putting quotations around your phrase/sentence do ("**economic crisis**")?

- ☐ Your results must have those terms in them somewhere
- ☐ You will increase your results
- ☐ The terms need to be found together at all times in the same order

Why is this helpful? _____

4. NOT/Excluding terms

Why is using **not** between terms or a hyphen before a term to be excluded helpful to your search?

- ☐ It gives you more results
- ☐ It eliminates words that might interfere with your search
- ☐ It gives you results from higher-quality sources

YOUR TURN

What is your topic?

List the title of one good source you found.

What did you type in to find the source (the exact string)?

Why did you structure your search in that way?
