Course: Session on Introduction to Online Databases

Date: March 24. 13	**Topic:** Students will be introduced to online databases for a research paper on a Canadian historical event from the 20th century.

Goals: To introduce grade ten students to online databases.
Objectives: After a 75 minute session of lecture, demonstration, short video and hands on application students will be able to search for and locate articles from online databases.

Expected Learning Outcomes:
Students will be able to: - search using keyword, subject and advanced search
- create search queries using boolean logic
- locate relevant articles and email them.
- utilize the citation tools in order to create a Bibliography
- distinguish between scholarly and popular articles

Outline: *Students and their teacher will be invited into the medialounge, a comfortable space with couches, tables and a computer with a 55 inch monitor.*

Introduction: What are online databases and why should students learn to use them? What is the difference between using online databases and Google for research purposes? (15 min)

Demonstration: The instructor will access the databases from the Sudbury Public Library website. The instructor will perform a search on Gale General Reference Center Gold. The demonstration will include: a subject search, keyword search, and advanced search demonstrating the difference between each. Boolean operators will be demonstrated. The topic will be the causes of the Halifax explosion in 1916. The instructor will point out to students the various types of results; for example, magazines, academic journals, books and news. An explanation of each will be given in addition to a video on the differences between popular and scholarly articles. (15 min)

Video: Scholarly vs popular articles
http://www.coastal.edu/library/videos/ (4 min)

Other features pointed out on the database are the delimiters which include; related subjects, document types, publication titles, and dates. Other concepts to be addressed are full text and peer reviewed. Once an article is selected the tools become available; print, email, download, citation tools, bookmark, share and listen. (5 min)

Questions will be addressed.

Hands on Application - Students will proceed to the computers where they will perform their own searches. The students will be given an assignment to start off with, see attachment. Students will be given 30 minutes to use the online database and get started on their work. At this time the instructor will visit each student to offer individual assistance(30 min).

Discussion of problems, observations and general comments. Students will be given paper in which they will be requested to do a Minute paper (Grassian, p.98) asking the two questions; what was the main point of the session? What is your main unanswered question?
The students will be invited to return for another session to work on the computers to continue their research.

Objective: The medialounge is a warm and inviting space.

In the introduction the purpose of the session will be put into context for the group. Will attempt to appeal to the "what's in it for me" to get the students interested.

Having examples of each item; magazine, journal, books and newspaper will help some students better understand.

A short well done video will appeal to many students and will be a good change of pace.

Before moving on to each session the instructor will try to ensure the students understand.
The LCT approach is effective and makes the learner do the actual work of learning. Instructors are present to provide guidance.
The minute paper is an effective tool for providing the instructor with insight into where they could improve future sessions.

Assignment: Students will be given an Online Database Assignment. They will be expected to start it during their 30 minutes on the computers and will be expected to hand it in 3 days later to their teacher.

Notes:
Q:

LECTURE NOTES and HANDOUT: Online databases

Library Databases vs. Google

A library database is an organized collection of electronic information that allows a user to search for a particular topic, article, or book in a variety of ways (e.g., keyword, subject, author, title). Library databases contain thousands to millions of records or articles. Some databases contain the full-text of articles from journals, magazines, and newspapers as well as books while other databases contain only citations - or - citations & abstracts. A database can be multidisciplinary (cover a variety of topics) or subject specific (e.g., business, health).

Can't I get the same articles found in a library database by using Google?

In most cases, no. Most of the information retrieved from the open web by using Internet search engines, such as Google, is free. Library databases contain copyrighted, licensed, proprietary information that is not free. JSRCC Library pays yearly subscription fees for its databases just like it pays yearly subscription fees for its print journals, magazines, and newspapers.

I don't know how to use the library databases. What's wrong with just Googling it?

There's nothing wrong with using Google or another search engine to find information on the web. Just keep in mind that most of the information retrieved from the open web hasn't been evaluated. It could be inaccurate, biased, or it might not be current. Also, the authors of web sites might not have the same credentials as the authors of articles found in the library databases. You will need to more carefully evaluate information retrieved on the open web. All of the articles found in the library databases have already been evaluated for accuracy and credibility by discipline-specific experts and publishers.

My instructor told our class we can't use any (or only a few) Internet sources. Can I still use the library databases?

Yes. Library databases use the Internet as a delivery system but they are not considered the Internet. In most cases, your instructor means that they don't want you using web sites or web pages found on the open web through Internet search engines such as Google. Most of the published resources found in the library databases are not available on the open web. Always clarify with your instructors what they actually mean when the class is told no (or few) Internet sources.

COMPARISON of library database and Internet searching.

Types of Information Retrieved

Library database	Internet searching
-scholarly journal articles - popular magazine articles - newspaper articles - reference book articles - Books - No sponsors or ads	-few free scholarly journal articles - popular websites (wikipedia, facebook) - Commercial web sites (eBay, Amazon) - Educational websites .edu - Government websites gc.ca - Statistics (Statscan) - Organizational websites .org - Current news & information - Email, chat (Gmail, Facebook, Messenger) - MANY sponsors and ads
WHEN to USE	
-Best for school research -When you need credible information quickly	-Best for personal information needs including shopping and entertainment. - When you have time to more carefully evaluate information found on the open web
Credibility / Review Process	
-Articles and books written by journalists in professional field -All material in database is evaluated for accuracy and credibility by subject experts and publishers -Reviewed and updated regularly.	-Lack of control allows anyone to publish their opinions and ideas on the Internet -Not evaluated (for the most part). Need to more carefully evaluate web sites for bias, accuracy and completeness. -Many sites are not updated regularly and can become outdated.
COST and Accessibility	
-Library database subscriptions are paid through school tuitions and provincial taxes -Must be a member of an institution or community	-Most information found through a search engine is free. -Library databases cannot be accessed through search engines or the open web. -Many web sites found through Internet search engines contain licensed, proprietary information and require you to logon with a user account. You must already be a member or pay for a subscription in order to access the material from these websites.
Usability	

Library database	Internet searching
-The organization and various research capabilities of library databases allow users to search for and retrieve focused and relevant results.	Less ability to search for and retrieve precise results using search engines like Google. Need to wade through a “grab bag” of results offering numbering in the thousands or millions.
Constancy / Permanence / Stability	
-Published content from journals, magazines, newspapers and books does not change. - Most material remains in database for a significant length of time and can be easily retrieved again.	-Web site content can often change. - Web pages and sites may disappear for a number of reasons. May not be able to retrieve the same content at a later date.
Citing Sources	
-Many databases include a citation tool that will automatically generate an APA or MLA style reference for the article you select. You may still need to “tweak” this citation but these tools serve as a good starting point for citing your articles in a particular format.	-Most web sites found on the open web do not provide a citation tool. You will need to start your citation from scratch using APA or MLA style manuals or handouts from your teacher.

(This material was found at the J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Libraries. Retrieved from: http://library.reynolds.edu/internal/handouts/databasesvsinternet.pdf).

STEPS TO DATABASE SEARCHING

1) Select database

2) Search query using: KEYWORD / SUBJECT / or ADVANCED SEARCH

3) Focus your search using delimiters. Delimiters allow you to narrow your search by: related subjects, document types, publication titles, or date.

4) Evaluate items retrieved and select articles of interest by emailing them, printing or downloading them to yourself.

Differences between keyword and subject searching.

A **subject search** searches the subject headings assigned to articles and books. Subject headings are assigned to each item by a librarian. In order to have these terms and phrases be consistent, most libraries use subject headings defined by the Library of Congress. A subject search limits your search to an exact word or an exact combination of words assigned to a given article or book as subject headings.

A **keyword search** retrieves any and all occurrences of a given word or combination of words, whether the words appear in the subject headings, title, or description of the article or book (KVL: http://www.kyvl.org/html/tutorial/research/subject.shtml).

KEYWORD search	SUBJECT search
-Natural language words describing your topic. A good way to begin your search. - More flexible for searching. You can combine terms in any number of ways. - Database looks for keywords anywhere in the record (title, author name, subject headings, and full text of document) - Often yields too many or too few results. - Often yields many irrelevant results because the document will be retrieved even if the word appears once.	-Predefined "controlled vocabulary" words assigned to describe the content of each item in a database or catalogue. -Less flexible. You must know the exact controlled vocabulary term or phrase. -Database looks for subjects only in the subject heading or descriptor field, where the most relevant words appear. -If a subject heading search yields too many results, you can often select subheadings to focus on one aspect of the broader subject. -Results are usually very relevant to the topic.

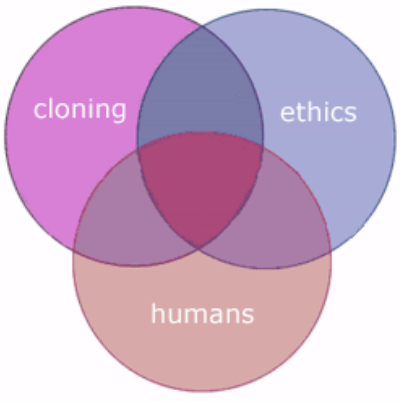
(University of Illinois at Urbana Champagne: http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/keywordvssubject.html)

When performing an advanced search you will use **BOOLEAN operators** to link your search terms together.

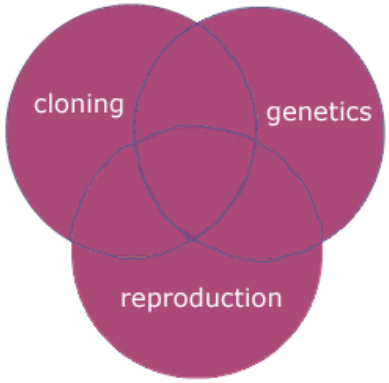
BOOLEAN searching
The three basic boolean operators are: AND, OR, and NOT. We use boolean logic to link together search terms in order to focus your search and connect multiple search terms. For instance: What are the EFFECTS of STEROIDS on YOUNG ADULTS? Your search would be: effects AND steroids AND young adults. The OR term is used for synonyms: young adults, teenagers, adolescents etc. The new search could be: effects AND (steroids OR androstenedione) AND (young adults OR teenagers OR adolescents) The NOT terms is used because computers don't think, so you have to tell them exactly what you want. For example: dolphins NOT football Another example is: bulimia NOT anorexia

Using AND terms will retrieve only those articles that have all three terms (the overlapped section in the diagram) which will narrow your search. Using OR allows you to search two or more similar concepts which will have the effect of broadening your search.

AND



OR



(Diagrams are from the MIT library guides; http://libguides.mit.edu/content.php?pid=36863&sid=271372)

Difference between a POPULAR article and an ACADEMIC or SCHOLARLY article.

Characteristics	Scholarly journal	Popular article
Appearance	-Sober and serious -May contain graphs or charts -Will NOT find glossy pages or photographs	-Attractive appearance -Advertisements -Heavily illustrated -Glossy paper
Audience	-Scholars and students	-General audience
Authors	-Scholars in the field of study	Reporters or journalists, usually not experts on the subject
Documentation	-Sources cited in footnotes and/ or bibliography	Sources not cited or cited informally
Purpose	-Report results of original research or experimentation	Provide general information
Article acceptance procedure	-Many undergo a process of "peer review" where other scholars examine the work before it is published.	Written by hired reporters, edited by magazine editors, and published.
Examples	Canadian Journal of Psychiatry Journal of the American Medical Association Historical Review	Macleans' Time National Geographic

If you are searching for background information on a topic new to you, popular magazines are a great starting point. Scholarly articles are demanding reading at any age, don't be discouraged!

(Images: http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/scholarly/guide.html)

Class assignment on Using an Online Database

1) Using the search term “Meech Lake Accord” perform a KEYWORD search.

How many magazine articles did you retrieve? _____

How any academic journal articles did you retrieve? _____

How many books did you retrieve? _____

How many news articles did you retrieve? _____

2) Using the search term “Meech Lake Accord” perform a SUBJECT search.

How many magazine articles did you retrieve? _____

How any academic journal articles did you retrieve? _____

How many books did you retrieve? _____

How many news articles did you retrieve? _____

3) How do you explain the different results?

_____

_____

_____

_____

4) Write down your own research topic in a sentence. Pull out the important concepts and create a research query using the boolean operators. You must use AND, and OR, and NOT at least once.

_____

_____

_____

_____

5) Using your own search topic, find 5 academic or magazine articles that you might be helpful in writing your paper.

a) email them to your own email address and the instructors: lje@uwm.edu.

b) using the citation tools, create a bibliography of the 5 articles. Print the bibliography out and attach it to this sheet.

Using Online Databases Class Assignment Rubric

Criteria	Excellent	Fair	Does not meet expectations
Good punctuation, grammar and spelling			
Handed in by due date.	Handed in on time.		Later than one week
1) Keyword search	Number of retrieved articles was within range		Number of retrieved articles was not close to the range
2) Subject search	Number of retrieved articles was within range		Number of retrieved articles was not close to the range
3) Explanation of different results	Demonstrated a clear understanding of the concept	Demonstrated a partial understanding of concept	Does not demonstrate an understanding of concept
4) Created a logical search query	Query was logical and had excellent concepts	Query was logical and had fair concepts	Query was not logical and did not have proper concepts
4) Selected accurate concepts	Demonstrated a clear understanding of the concept	Demonstrated a partial understanding of concept	Does not demonstrate an understanding of concept
4) Completeness of boolean logic section	Completed two or more sentences correctly.	Completed one query correctly.	Did not complete query correctly.
5.a) 5 articles were received by email.	Five articles were all useful.	There were five articles but not all were useful.	Less than five and did not pertain to topic.
5.b)Bibliography contains five citations relevant to topic	Citations were correct and on topic	Citations were correct but did not match topic	Citations were incorrect and did not match topic

Bibliography

Arizona State Libraries. *Difference between a Popular and Scholarly Article.* (March, 2013). Retrieved from: http://www.library.arizona.edu/help/tutorials/scholarly/guide.html

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Libraries. *Library Databases vs. Google.* (March, 2013). Retrieved from: http://library.reynolds.edu/internal/handouts/databasesvsinternet.pd

M.I.T. Library guides. (March, 2013). Retrieved from: http://libguides.mit.edu/content.php?pid=36863&sid=271372)

University of Illinois at Urbana Champagne. *Difference between a keyword and subject search*. (March, 2013). Retrieved from: http://www.library.illinois.edu/learn/research/keywordvssubject.html