

Your Name:

Round of Searching Project (7 points)

Due Thursday 3/11/2010

Preliminaries:

For the Unit 3 Discussion, you posted your topic in the form of a question or statement, listed your background information sources, captured related terms, synonyms, and acronyms, and finally, wrote a search string using correct Boolean syntax and truncation. You also read any instructor replies to your posting, which would have contained essential feedback about assignment.

This assignment will give you practice:

- building on the background information you gathered for Unit 3 discussion.
- developing a good search strategy
- topic-searching in a scholarly article database
- using search refinement techniques and tools in a database (eg., limiting by document type or publication year)
- taking the time to study basic facts about the contents and functionality of a database before you start to search it
- critically evaluating and selecting new information sources in the context of your learning and research process

Before you start the worksheet you should have done the following:

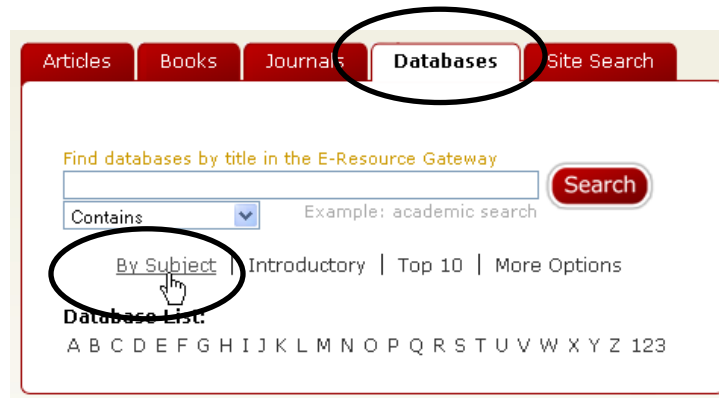
- completed Units 1 – 4 readings, quizzes, and discussion
- reviewed Unit 3 Search Strategy tutorials
- read and responded to any instructor feedback about adjusting your topic/strategy in the discussion forum
- received approval for your topic from Diana or Aiden. **You need an approved topic for this project.**

Logistics: SAVE this document as a Word file so you can EDIT it. SAVE changes as you edit. UPLOAD your final document to the drop box before Thursday 3/11 (11:30 pm)

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1. **Critical Reflection (worth 2 points)** Write a paragraph reflecting on your search experience from the Units 3 and 4 Discussions. Tell us where you decided to start your search, and why. *There are no wrong answers here.* We are curious about student research behavior, so please tell us what you actually did, not what you think we want to hear. What was either fun, frustrating, confusing, successful or unsuccessful about the process? Share your opinions.

2. Round One: Search

- a. **SELECT A JOURNAL ARTICLE DATABASE TO SEARCH.** Success in searching often starts with choosing the right tool for the job. Some suggested databases are listed below. If none of these suggestions seem right for your topic, look for “Databases by Subject” at www.library.wisc.edu :



A few suggested databases:

Engineering Village; ABI Inform (American Business Institute); Academic Search; Applied Science Full Text; Business Full Text; Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management; Technology Research Database Collection; Biological Abstracts

Scope and Coverage: This information can be found by clicking on the “i” button to the right of the database name in the E-Resource Gateway:

[Environmental Sciences and Pollution Management](#)



- b. COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING TABLE.** This section will give you practice exploring database features and using them to maximize the quality and effectiveness of your searches. In order to answer several of these questions, you will have to consult the “Help”, “Search Tips,” or “About” information the database provides. When grading this assignment, we check for accuracy by actually re-creating your searches, so please be accurate with your details.

Name the database that you chose:	
What kinds of publications does the database include? (eg. Journal articles, conference proceedings, book or monograph chapters, etc.). Name all of them.	
3. What is the date range covered by the database?	
4. Can you search for terms within specific fields in this database? (eg. <i>title</i> , <i>abstract</i> , or <i>author affiliation</i>)	
4. Does the database offer an “autostemming” feature, or do you need to use truncation? If the latter, what is the truncation symbol?	
5. How does the database want you to search for phrases; Do you need to put phrases in quotes or not?	
6. Initial Search: Enter your search now and copy it to this box. (So we can see exactly what you searched and duplicate what you did). Use a small screen capture of the search box if you would like.	
7. How many results did you get? Is this too many or too few? (~Twenty to one- hundred records is ideal, but it depends on the topic). How would you fix this?	
8. Are the results relevant to your topic, or did you retrieve many false hits?	
Is the full-text of at least some publications provided, or is it an abstracting database only?	
9. Look at a few of the best results (view detailed record with abstract). Write down one or two new search terms from the descriptors or subjects listed. Think about how you will use these in your next round of searching.	

3. Round Two: Re-Search

Adjust your strategy to try to improve the number and relevance of your results. You may have found too many or too few the first time, or maybe they seemed off-target for your topic.

You might try different or additional search terms, including acronyms (eg. SAE), using truncation, and/or applying some of the search limits that the tool offers. For example, publication year, language, format or document type, treatment type, are all mechanical limits that you may be offered in any given search tool.

Tip: Be sure to eliminate any simple errors you might have made in your initial search (for instance, using the wrong truncation symbol, incorrect syntax, or misspelled words).

Be resourceful and make the database perform for you.

Revise your search strategy/ syntax, including any new terms, truncation, synonyms, acronyms. Enter your search now and copy it to this box. (So we can see exactly what you searched and duplicate what you did).	
What new strategies did you employ this time? Be specific.	
How many results did you get this time?	
Was this a better or worse result? Think about quality, relevance, numbers of hits.* <i>* Sometimes the original search works better.</i>	
Why? To what do you attribute the differences?	

4: Final Analysis (2 points)

- a. What is your final, revised, search strategy for this database...including any new terms, truncation, synonyms, acronyms, limits?
- b. Identify the best 3 articles that you found by using the abstract or other content information. (These articles must be in your search results in Part C.)

Copy and paste the 3 citations below. If you wish to use RefWorks citation manager, you may want to download them to RefWorks for later. ***Maybe one will come in handy for your Annotated Bibliography...***

- c. **Give a brief explanation for each article about why you chose it.** (Max. 2-3 sentences for each one. Think about factors such as authority, depth of coverage, and the purpose the information holds for you.) ***More Annotated Bibliography foreshadowing...***

Your Top Three Citations:

1.

2.

3.