



Fall 2019

# Student Success Center: Practical Database Searching

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## Abstract

Presentation for the Student Success Center - Fall 2019

*Student Success Center: Practical Database Searching*

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# Student Success Center: Practical Database Searching

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# Remember:

- Make sure you understand your assignment completely. Plan ahead so that you satisfy all its requirements.
- Get most of the information for your assignment through the Library Homepage.
- Usually avoid .com websites. Always evaluate all information from all sources.
- When in doubt ask your Teacher.

# SWOSU Libraries Homepage

<https://library.swosu.edu/>



The screenshot shows the SWOSU Libraries homepage. At the top, there is a blue banner with the SWOSU Libraries logo and the text "Al Harris Library, Weatherford • McMahan Library, Sayre". Below the banner is a search bar with the text "What are you looking for?". To the right of the search bar is a small image of a library interior with the text "2nd floor renovations are underway! Here is the status...". Below the search bar are tabs for "Discovery Search", "Databases", and "Journal Finder". The search bar contains the text "Type a topic, name, or title...". Below the search bar are links for "Everything", "Books", "Articles", and "Videos", and a checkbox for "Link to current holdings". A "Discovery Search" button is located below the search bar. To the right of the search bar is a "Tips" section with the following text: "• WorldCat Discovery to an all in one search of the library's catalog and many journal article databases." "• Click on links to browse by subject and filter these types to browse the full list of databases (400+ to choose from)." "• Use Ask a Librarian to get helpful searching suggestions." "• No full-text for your article? Fill out the interlibrary loan form to get the full article." Below the search bar are links for "Advanced", "Browse Items", and "How to place holds".

**Hours**

**Fall '16 Hours**

Monday - Thursday: 7:30am - 11:00pm  
Friday: 7:30am - 5:00pm  
Saturday: 12:00pm - 5:00pm  
Sunday: 10:00am - 11:00pm  
Fall calendar & Syllabus hours

**Digital Commons**

**Visit Us**

- Circulation Policy
- How to use the Library
- Floor Map
- Hours
- McMahan Library, SWOSU - Sayre

**Citing Sources**

- Which style?
  - APA
  - MLA
  - Turabian
- Tools
  - Zotero
  - EndNote
  - BibMe
  - Librarian Machine

**SWOSU Libraries**

2nd floor renovations are underway! Here is the status...

SWOSU Libraries  
on Thursday

Check out the new online catalog! How? How do we do that? We're working on it. We'll be back in the 2nd floor of the Al Harris Library.

SWOSU Libraries  
1111 Harris Library Building  
Weatherford, Oklahoma 73087

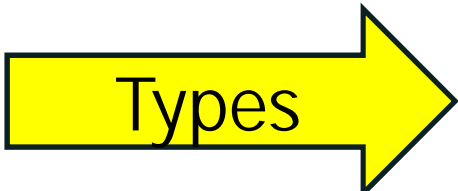
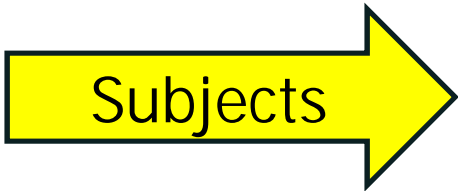
Like Comment Share



# Databases

<https://library.swosu.edu/>

The screenshot shows the SWOSU Libraries website interface. At the top, the logo reads "SWOSU Libraries" with a sun icon, and below it, "Al Harris Library, Weatherford • McMahan Library, Sayre". A navigation bar includes "Home", "About Us", "Services", "Contact Us", and "2nd floor renovations More information". The main heading is "What are you looking for?" with tabs for "Library Search", "Databases", and "Journal Finder". A "Browse the Databases A-Z List" button is visible. The content is organized into three columns: "Top 15" (listing databases like Academic Search Complete, ERIC, etc.), "Subjects" (listing fields like Art, Biology, Business, etc.), and "Types" (listing resource types like Biographies, Images, Journals, etc.).



Search Technique Number One:

Keywords



# Identifying Keywords:

- Identify the significant terms and concepts that describe your topic **from your thesis statement** or **research question**.
- These terms will become the key for a Discovery Search, databases, and search engines for information about your subject.

Examples: Overpopulation, Censorship, Workaholic, Literacy, Internet,





# Keyword Phrases:

- Single concept, multiple words
- Some electronic resources require keyword phrases be enclosed with punctuation
  - Quotation marks – SWOSU Discovery Service
  - Parentheses





# Examples of Keyword Phrases:

- "Fitness programs "
- "Wage gap "
- "Electronic information preservation"
- "Gap year"
- "No Child Left Behind Act"
- "Global warming"
- "Title IX"
- "Public figures"

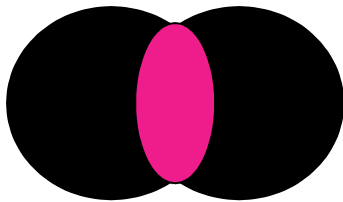
Search Technique Number Two:

Basic Boolean

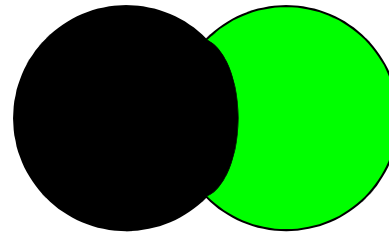


# Boolean

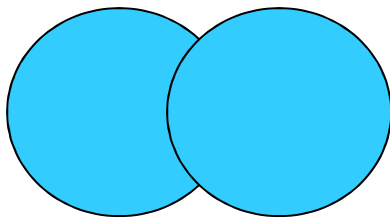
- AND = Narrow



- NOT = Exclude



- OR = Expand



# Boolean Operators

- Connect keywords only
- Must be placed between keywords

--AND

Narrows your search

--OR

Expands your search with synonymous terms

--NOT

- Excludes words from your search
- If used too much, it can work against you!



# Breaking Search Down:

If you can't find what you are looking for break search phrases down:

- Anglo Saxon Culture in Beowulf can be broken into Anglo Saxon Culture then Beowulf in separate searches. You combine the information from the two sources when you write your paper.
- Try substituting terms that mean the same thing.

# Google Scholar

<https://scholar.google.com/>

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Google Scholar



Articles  Case law

Stand on the **shoulders of giants**.

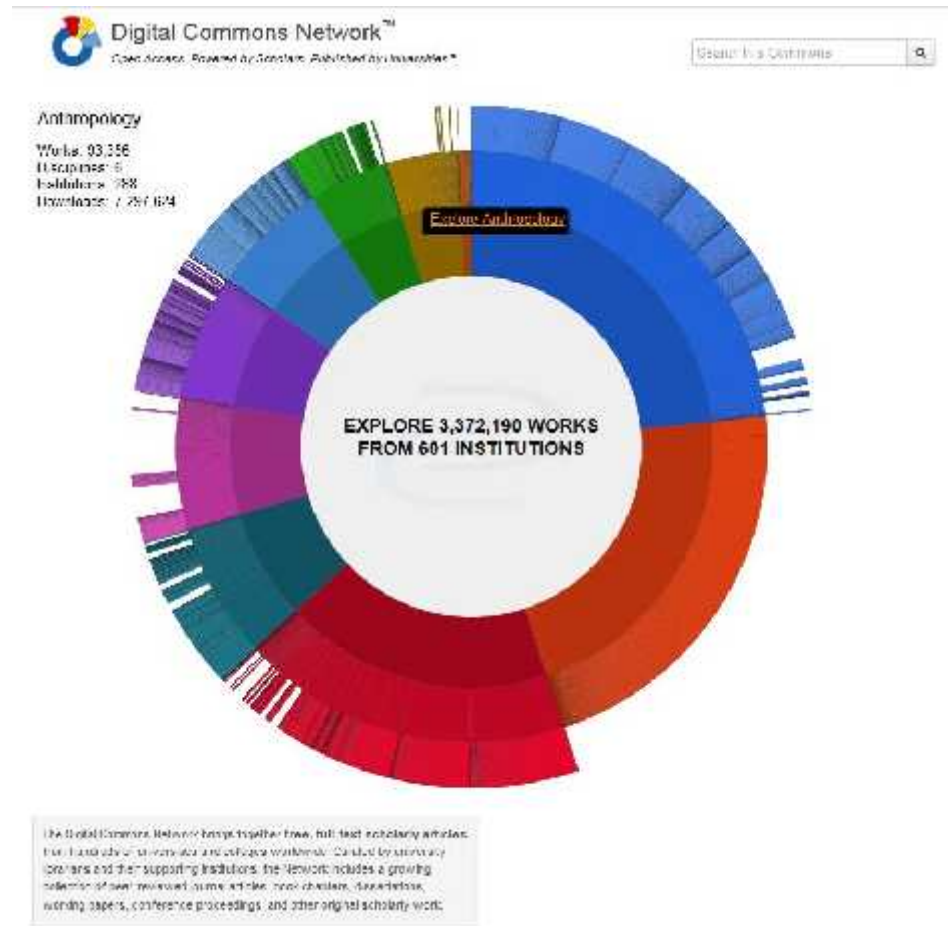


- **Domain Names** are the last letters at the end of web addresses such as .org, .com, .edu, .gov.
- Including .edu or .gov in your Web search will improve the quality of your search results by retrieving only educational and government Web sites.  
Examples: Biofuels .gov , Biofuels .edu
- Consider the following Domain Names: .edu — education, .gov — government, .biz — business, .eu — European country, .in – India, .cn – China.
- For a dictionary of Domain Names go to:  
<http://www.techdictionary.com/domainlist.html>.



# Digital Commons Network

<https://network.bepress.com/>



## APA Citation Guides: Digital

- Citing Sources in MLA Style : Al Harris Library (SWOSU)  
<http://campusguides.swosu.edu/mlastyle>
- OWL: Purdue Online Writing Lab  
<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>



## Recap:

1. The assignment: Know your assignment and cover all of its requirements.
2. Search strategies: Keywords/Boolean
3. Apply strategies to resources
4. Places of to search:
  - Discovery Service
    - ✓ Databases, for Articles
5. Contact me or any of the other librarians for future help.

# Questions?

- Contact me:
  - Phillip Fitzsimmons
  - 744-3030

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