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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 is a blue banner with the "SWOSU Libraries" logo and the text "Al Harris Library, Weatherford • McMahan Library, Sayre". To the right is a photo of a library interior with a caption: "2nd floor renovations are underway! Here is the plan...". Below the banner is a search bar with the text "What are you looking for?". Under the search bar are three tabs: "Discovery Search", "Database", and "Journal Finder". Below the search bar is a search input field with the placeholder text "Type a topic, name, or title...". To the right of the search input field is a "Tips" section with four bullet points: "• WorldCat Discovery is an all in one search of the library's catalog and many journal article databases.", "• Click on links to browse by subject and find more types or browse the full list of databases (140+ to choose from).", "• Use Ask a Librarian to get helpful searching suggestions.", and "• No full-text for your article? Fill out the interlibrary loan form to get the full article." Below the search input field is a "Discovery Search" button. Below the button are links for "Advanced", "Browse lists", and "How to place holds". Below the search bar is a "Hours" section with the text "Fall '16 Hours" and a list of hours for Monday through Sunday. Below the "Hours" section is a "Digital Commons" section with a photo of a group of people and the text "Browse SWOSU yearbooks from 1860-2006, The". Below the "Hours" section is a "Citing Sources" section with a list of links: "Which style?", "APA", "MLA", "TurkMinn", "Chicago", "SufiWiki", "Duke", and "Librarian Machine". Below the "Citing Sources" section is a "Visit Us" section with a list of links: "Circulation Policy", "Overseas & Parking", "Phone Map", "Hours", and "McMahan Library, SWOSU-Sayre". To the right of the "Visit Us" section is a "Facebook" section with a photo of a person and the text "SWOSU Libraries just likes...".

SWOSU Libraries
Al Harris Library, Weatherford • McMahan Library, Sayre

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

What are you looking for?

Discovery Search Database Journal Finder

Type a topic, name, or title...

Everything Books Articles Videos

Link to recent holdings

Discovery Search

Advanced Browse lists How to place holds

Tip

- WorldCat Discovery is an all in one search of the library's catalog and many journal article databases.
- Click on links to browse by subject and find more types or browse the full list of databases (140+ 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.

Hours

Fall '16 Hours

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

Digital Commons

Browse SWOSU yearbooks from 1860-2006, The

Citing Sources

- Which style?
- APA
- MLA
- TurkMinn
- Chicago
- SufiWiki
- Duke
- Librarian Machine

Visit Us

- Circulation Policy
- Overseas & Parking
- Phone Map
- Hours
- McMahan Library, SWOSU-Sayre

SWOSU Libraries just likes...

Databases

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

The screenshot shows the SWOSU Libraries homepage. At the top is a blue banner with the logo and text: "SWOSU Libraries" and "At Harris Library, Weatherford • McMahan Library, Sayre". Below the banner is a search bar with the text "What are you looking for?". Under the search bar are three tabs: "Full-Text Search", "Databases", and "Journal Finder". Below the tabs are three main sections: "Top 15", "Subjects", and "Types". Each section has a list of database titles. There are also "Browse the Databases A-Z List" buttons at the top and bottom of the page.

SWOSU Libraries
At Harris Library, Weatherford • McMahan Library, Sayre

What are you looking for?

Full-Text Search | Databases | Journal Finder

Top 15

- Academic Search Complete
- AccessPharmacy
- CINAHL Complete
- Ebook Central (eLibrary)
- eBook Collection (EUSU)
- ERIC
- Facts & Comparisons
- Films on Demand
- Health Source: Nursing/Academic
- JSTOR
- LexisNexis
- MEDLINE Complete
- Micromedex
- Natural Medicines
- PsycARTICLES

Subjects

- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Communication & Theater
- Computer Science
- Education
- General Topics
- History
- Kinesiology
- Language & Literature
- Mathematics
- Music
- Nursing & Allied Health
- Pharm & Geriatrics
- Pharmacy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Technology

Types

- Biographies
- Citation Tools
- Database Trials
- Dictionaries
- Drug References
- Ebooks
- Encyclopedias
- Images
- Journals
- Maps
- Music Streaming & Audiobooks
- Newspapers
- Primary Sources
- Pro & Con
- Recently Added
- Sheet Music
- Statistics & Data
- Tutorials & Test Prep
- Videos

Browse the Databases A-Z List

Subjects

Types



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"

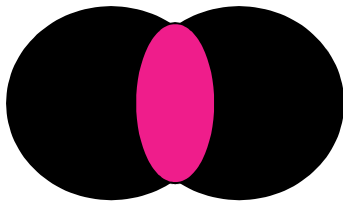
Search Technique Number Two:

Basic Boolean

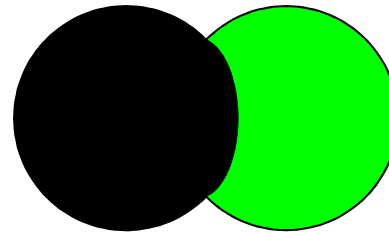


Boolean

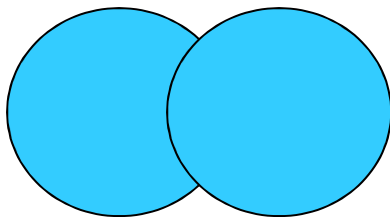
- AND = Narrow



- 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/>

Google Scholar



☒ Articles ☐ Case law

Stand on the **shoulders of giants**



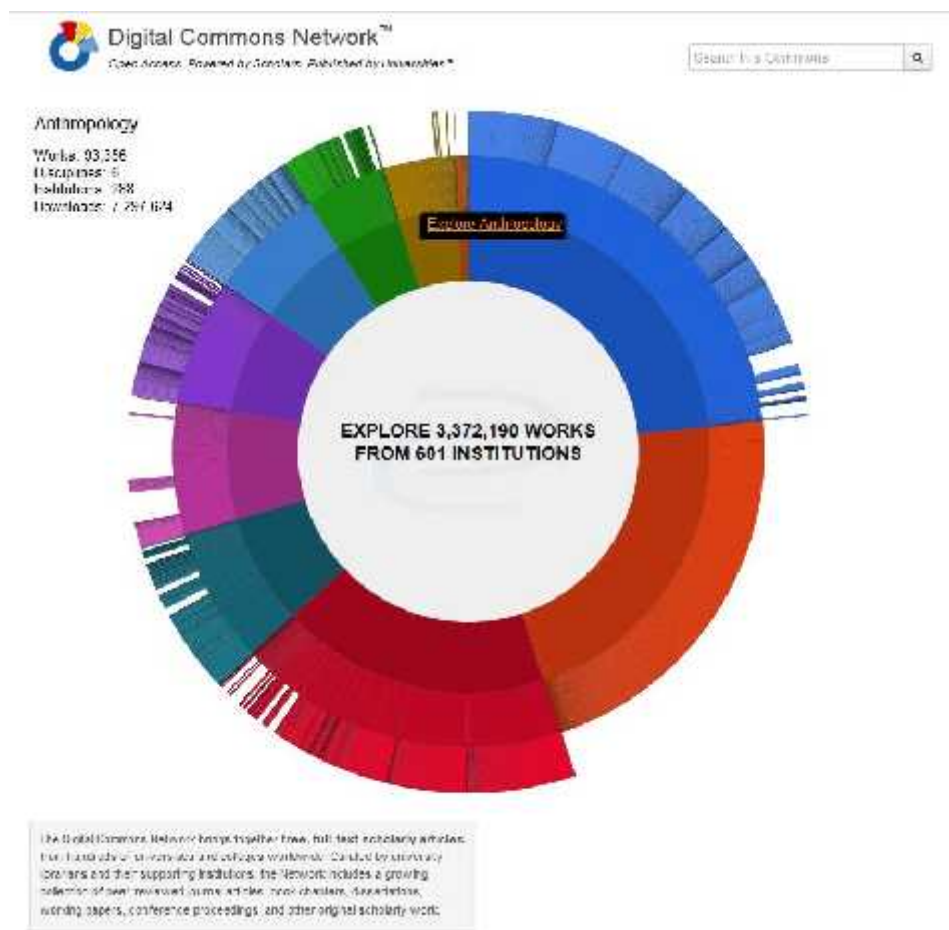
- **Domain Names** are the last letters at the end of web addresses such as .org, .com, .edu, .gov.
- Including .edu or .gov in your Web search will improve the quality of your search results by retrieving only educational and government Web sites.

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
 - phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu

