Database Searching

Your professor has asked you to find scholarly articles on the following question:

How does collective memory impact national identity?

1. Where would you go to answer this question and what would you search for?

2. What is the main topic in the question above? ________________________________

3. Do a quick search for your topic in One Search, the library catalog, and one database listed in the Social Sciences subject list. What kinds of information did you find?

Generate keywords, synonyms, and subjects.

- Identify keywords from the question and brainstorm synonyms for those terms
- Do a quick, preliminary search to find relevant subject headings

3. Fill out the chart below

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic keywords</th>
<th>Synonyms and subject headings</th>
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You can use a wildcard to look for variations on a root word. For instance, I could search for read* to find read, reading, reads, readers, readability, etc.

Develop some search strings (combinations of words)

- Use quotation marks to search for an exact phrase.
  - “collective memory”
- Use fields from the drop-down menu to search for exact subject headings, words in a title, authors’ names, or keywords.
- Use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) to combine words
4. Write two search strings below:

Use Limiters.
- Databases, library catalogs, and search engines allow you to limit searches in a variety of ways.
- You often have to choose the advanced search option to find limiters.
- Some common limiters:
  - Peer-reviewed
  - Full-text
  - Publication date
  - Type of article
  - Journal name

5. What limiters would you apply for your search?

6. Practice some searches using your search strings and limiters.

7. Was your search successful? Why or why not?

Now that we have practiced some different search methods, how would you change your original answer for this question:

8. Where would you go to answer this question and what would you search for?

Need more help? Stop by the library, or contact us via phone, email, or chat.
http://www.uas.alaska.edu/library/research/index.html

Kaia Henrickson, Egan Library, Fall 2018