# Search Strategies (Keyword, Subject, & Faceted)

## Keyword Search Strategies

### Boolean Operators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operator</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Broadens or expands your search. Used to retrieve like terms or synonyms. Finds all items with either teenager OR adolescent. In set theory and math, union is inclusive “OR” teenager U adolescent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td>Narrows or limits your search. Used to retrieve unrelated terms. Finds items with both diet and children. In set theory and math, intersection is “AND” diet ∩ children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOT</td>
<td>Finds the term gypsy NOT moths. Narrows your search. Use the NOT operator with caution. May eliminate relevant records.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Upper Case

In Usearch, EBSCOHost, and PubMed, Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) must be entered in upper case.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Default operator</th>
<th>Is the Same As</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ecotourism</td>
<td>ecotourism AND sustainable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AND is the default or implied operator in Usearch, Google, Scopus, PubMed, EBSCOhost (Academic Search Premier, PsycINFO, etc.), and most search interfaces.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Truncation * (Asterisk)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Truncation is also known as a wildcard. Truncation is a symbol that retrieves all the suffixes or endings of a word. school* retrieves school, schools, schooling, etc. latin* retrieves latina, latino, Latinas, latinos, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nesting**

- Commonly used when combining more than one Boolean operator (OR, AND).
- Most search interfaces search left to right. Using parentheses in a search changes the order of operation

  (moral* OR ethic*) AND (assisted suicide OR euthanasia) (ski OR skis OR skiing OR snowboard*) AND video*

**Phrase Searching (Using Quotations “ ” )**

“international olympic committee” “Utah tennis”

- Finds the exact phrase
- Finds items with words in order typed

**Proximity Operators**

Allow one to find one word within a certain distance of another. In Scopus, the help pages state [http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2850/p/8150/c/7956.8735](http://help.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2850/p/8150/c/7956.8735)

**PRE/n** "precedes by". Where the first term in the search must precede the second by a specified number of terms (n).

**W/n** "within". Where the terms in the search must be within a specified number of terms (n). Either word may appear first
Subject Searching

- The Marriott Library primarily uses the Library of Congress Classification system.
- "The system divides all knowledge into twenty-one basic classes, each identified by a single letter of the alphabet. Most of these alphabetical classes are further divided into more specific subclasses, identified by two-letter or three-letter combinations."*
- Subject headings found in Usearch come from this giant, multi-volume red set which is available in the Knowledge Commons.
- Searching by Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) is another way to narrow, expand, or specify a search.

Using the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH)
Approved Library of Congress Subject Headings (LCSH) are arranged alphabetically in boldface and show other useful headings.

Subject headings that are in bold are approved subject headings.
May provide a call number or call number range for materials with this subject.
Not a subject heading. LCSH uses the term Sports—Psychological Aspects


Other commonly used subject heading systems used by the College of Health include systems created by the National Library of Medicine (NLM) and the American Psychological Association (APA).
• MeSH (Medical Subject Headings). The MeSH browser is available at http://www.nlm.nih.gov/mesh/MBrowser.html
• Thesaurus of Psychological Index Terms which is available in the PsycINFO database

**Faceted Searching**

If you have searched websites such as Sears, Walmart or Amazon, you have used faceted search. USearch is the search system that allows users to find books, journals, journal articles, and media using one search tool. All of our books, journals, media, and special collections can be searched. Approximately 70% of the journal articles that we subscribe to can also be searched. For more comprehensive searching, you still want to use the hundreds of databases that the library subscribes to.

- Our system sorts items by relevance. You can also sort items by:
  - Date
  - Author
  - Title
- On the right hand side, you can refine or expand your search
- You can **Show Only**:
  - Peer Reviewed Journals, Full-Text, Available in the Library, etc.
  - **Refine by resource type** (Articles, Books, Text Resources, Audiovisuals, etc.)
- Facets will continue on the left hand of your search screen providing a number of ways of searching
More Options with Faceted Searching

- The Location facet may include different databases or scholarly publishers
- Other facets include Subject, Creation Date, Language, Author, and Suggested New Searches

More information/ Get Help

alfred.mowdood@utah.edu October 1, 2014