

Search strategy for library users

Your search strategy is your plan of action that takes you from thinking about the information you need to processing the information that you have found.

Regardless of the resources that you are using - a database, an index, or a www search engine - the searching strategy is essentially the same.

IDENTIFY KEYWORDS

SELECT RESOURCES

<http://dozer.infodiv.unimelb.edu.au/SuRe/subject.php>

FIND RELEVANT INFORMATION

- *Build a search*
- *Use search operators*
- *Limit search to fields*
- *Use wildcards*

EVALUATE SOURCES

PROCESS INFORMATION

<http://www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/cite/>

Subject Resources@Library

Selected research resources are listed for each subject (eg Finance, Criminology, Genetics, Musicology, etc.) as well as specialised areas (eg Images, Patents, Theses etc.)

They are called *Subject Resources@Library* and include academic materials (subject to editorial or peer-review) and other *reliable* sources.

Connect to *your* Subject Resources@Library

<http://dozer.infodiv.unimelb.edu.au/SuRe/subject.php>

INFORMATION DIVISION

Paul Stebbing/LRS 19/99/2004

Library information contacts

www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/collections/contact.html

- *ALL FACULTIES* 03-8344-0444

EXCEPT...

- *LAND & FOOD RESOURCES*

Burnley	03-9250-6851
Creswick	03-5321-4115
Dookie	03-5833-9224
Gilbert Chandler	03-9749-8012
Glenormiston	03-5557-8256
Longerenong	03-5362-2236
McMillan	03-5622-6003
Parkville	03-8344-5017

- *LAW* 03-8344-6177

- *VETERINARY SCIENCE*

Parkville	03-8344-7353
Werribee	03-9731-2331

Key library websites

- *INQUIRY:* www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/inquiry/
Includes FAQs
- *LIBRARY HOME:* www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/
- *LIBRARY CATALOGUE:* cat.lib.unimelb.edu.au/
- *CITATION STYLES:* www.lib.unimelb.edu.au/cite/
- *RESOURCES@LIBRARY:*
dozer.infodiv.unimelb.edu.au/SuRe/subject.php
- *CONTACTS FOR RESEARCH HELP:*
www.infodiv.unimelb.edu.au/telars/staff/lr.html



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Strategy for library users

1 Combining with AND

Narrow a search by combining concepts

Search results contain *both* words



FILMS **AND** REVIEWS finds records with *both* words in them

2 Combining with OR

Broaden a search by combining similar concepts or synonyms

Search results contain *either* word



FILMS **OR** MOVIES finds records with either the word *films* or the word *movies* in them.

3 Combining with NOT

Narrow a search by excluding a concept

Search results have 1st *but not* 2nd word

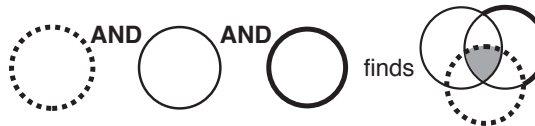


FILMS **NOT** ANIMATION finds records containing the word *films* but not the word *animation*.

Narrow a search further

The more words you combine with AND, the smaller the search result

Search results contain *each* word

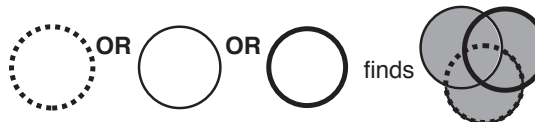


FILMS **AND** REVIEWS **AND** CRITIQUE finds records that have the words *films*, *reviews* and *critique* in them

Broaden a search further

The more words you combine with OR, the larger the search result

Search results contain *any* of the words



FILMS **OR** MOVIES **OR** SCREENPLAYS finds records that have *any of these* words in them.

Search operators enable you to refine your search by combining search words.

Resources that allow this kind of searching include most text based resources, eg:

- the library catalogue
- journal articles indexes
- text based databases
- www search engines

Select help screens, database help (or ask information staff) whether the resource you are using allows search operators.

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4 Use BRACKETS

When multiple keywords are used in a search, brackets can be used to build in *Search Logic*...

For example, if you want to find articles on film or movie reviews, try this search:

reviews and (movies or films)

