Information Teach-In

Image courtesy of earthsky.org
Background image courtesy of http://pictures.greengabbro.net/
Today we will...

- Practice searching for academic information
- Become familiar with specialized databases
- Explore tools to complete college-level assignments
What is a database?

A set of data grouped together in one location in (or accessible by) a computer. A computerized database has been likened to an electronic filing cabinet of information arranged for easy access or for a specific purpose.

The American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, 3rd Ed.
"hiking boots and Boots" we found 481 items!
Specialized Databases

- Cover specific types of materials
- Focus on particular subjects/disciplines
- Provide information that has been vetted
Developing Keywords

- Broader
- Narrower
- Synonyms
- More academic
# Boolean Searching

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>AND</strong></th>
<th><strong>Narrows</strong> search to only items containing both terms; best for combining related concepts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Climate Change</strong> <strong>AND</strong> <strong>California</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>OR</strong></td>
<td><strong>Broadens</strong> search to items containing any terms; best for combining synonyms and related terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Climate Change</strong> <strong>OR</strong> <strong>Global Warming</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOT</strong></td>
<td><strong>Narrows</strong> search to items containing one term but not another</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Climate Change</strong> <strong>NOT</strong> <strong>Polar Bears</strong></td>
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**Boolean Searching**

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<tr>
<th>Boolean Operator</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Example</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AND</strong></td>
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cushing library

Search Holy Names University Library and beyond

Limit results to: Libraries Worldwide

SPRING 2015 HOURS

Mon – Thurs: 9am – 10pm
Fri: 9am – 5pm
Sat: 10am – 3pm
Sun: 12pm – 10pm

Mon. 2/16: CLOSED for Presidents’ Day

See our Library Calendar for more information.

ASK A LIBRARIAN

- Email or chat
- Text 510-746-8103
- Appointment

Librarians are available most weekday afternoons and evenings.
Database Teach In
Database Teach-In!

BREAK INTO GROUPS!

Each group will explore and then teach the class about one of these fine databases.

• ProQuest Research Library!
• Academic Search Premier!
• Credo Reference!
• CQ Researcher!
But wait...there’s more!

**PREPARING YOUR LESSON!**

Your group will prepare an information teach-in about your database to the class.

- Practice searching.
- Explore your database using your group’s topic.
- Try all of the items in the “Peer Teach” section.
- Plan your presentation.
- Teach.
Pop Quiz!

• Which database is best for background information on your subject?

• If you are looking for a pro/con argument on a current social issue, which database would be the easiest to find one in?

• Where might you easily find articles from newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals?

• If you’d like to see if the Cushing Library has a book in print, where do you start?