Slide 1 - Title: Analyze your search results

Madison Area Technical College Libraries

Slide 2 - Note to English I Students

** Note to English I Students**
This video is to be viewed prior to your first English I library visit. Please view the video and be prepared to apply and discuss its content.

Slide 3 - Hi, I'm Donna, one of your Madison College Librarians. In this HOWLER module, we'll look at another step of the research process - analyzing search results. You can use the handy navigation bar at the bottom of the screen at any point to pause, rewind, or view closed captioning. [graphic: photo of Donna Marconnet. Libraries logo]

Slide 4 - As you begin to search for reliable and credible information from the Libraries, keep in mind this question: (Graphic: Student with head on his desk)

Slide 5 - Search Catalog.
Depending on your topic, there is a very good chance you will be able to find relevant and credible information in our own library database of materials, our online catalog. (Graphic: Catalog advanced search screen)

Slide 6 - Catalog. When you search our catalog, you will often retrieve results that include the various formats found in our collection, including books, e-books, streaming educational videos, and DVDs, many of which are documentaries that could serve as excellent source material. (Graphics: Photos of books, ebook on a tablet, screen shot from Films on Demand, and DVD box covers)
Slide 7 - ID Theft Search.

For example, if we do a subject search for 'identity theft'…

(Graphic: Advanced Search subject search for 'identity theft')

Slide 8 - Title Click.

We find titles that include fictional accounts, e-books, and a promising non-fiction title. Click on that title, 'Stopping Identity Theft: 10 Steps to Security'! (Graphic: Screenshot of results listed by date)

Slide 9 - Catalog Record Click

Here you will find some information you will need for your works cited page, as well as location information. To find out more about this book, click 'Catalog Record' link in blue at the top of the page.

Slide 10 - Relevant Chapter?

The catalog record for this item includes one more bit of information you will need to cite this book AND, like many items in the catalog, there is information about the contents of the book, in this case, chapter information. (Graphic: Catalog record of book)

Slide 11 - Millions

Our library databases contain millions of articles. When you perform a search, ...

[graphic: Find Articles webpage with list of databases]

Slide 12 - results

...you may get thousands of results. It’s helpful to analyze those results quickly to see if they’re relevant and then redirect searches, if needed. It’s helpful to analyze those results quickly to see if they’re relevant and then redirect searches, if needed.
Slide 13 - Quickscan

A quick scan can help you decide if you need to refine your search. Let's take a closer look:

Slide 14 - Reading a Record

Each item in a result list contains information which describes the actual document. [graphic: Journal Citation]

Slide 15 - Records in search results include the name of the magazine, journal, periodical, or publication, also sometimes referred to as the source. This title is a journal - an academic or scholarly source. As you start your research, think about the types of information resources you should have. Are popular sources okay, or do you need more scholarly sources, such as academic journals?

Slide 16 – Date.

The first results returned may not always be the most useful. Sometimes, you may want only the most recent information. Note the date of the article and check whether the results are listed in order by date or by relevancy.

Slide 17 - Title

Article titles can often give you a general idea of the content included in the article. [graphic: citation with article title highlighted]

Slide 18 - Multiple Authors

This article has three authors, which I will address later in the tutorial. Note that volume and issue information are also here for your citation for this source. (Graphic: Article record with three authors)
Slide 19 - Additional info

Additional information in the record may also give you important clues about the document. For example, we can see that this article is 11 pages long and includes a number of charts which may be useful.

Slide 20 - keyword wolves

Let's explore the results of a few sample searches. First, using one of our EBSCO library databases, a keyword search for the term "wolves"... [graphics: photo of Wolfie hoding a book. Keyword search wolves]

Slide 21 - relevancy

...yields a large number of results. The most recent results do appear first, but many are not relevant.

Slide 22 - Appropriate

A quick look also shows several irrelevant articles with the author's last name of "Wolf" and some publication titles that would be unlikely to have articles about wildlife.

Slide 23 - Quiz next step

Quiz question - what do you recommend as a next step? A) Narrow or focus the search by performing a subject search rather than a keyword search B) Keep looking through the pages of results C) let your teacher know that there is nothing in the database on your topic

Slide 24 - More Info

For our next sample search, let's search for information on the topic, identity theft, in our library database, Opposing Viewpoints. Each of our library databases has some unique content and features.
Quickly scanning a list of results can help you decide if the articles might be useful. Article titles may highlight the author’s purpose. [graphic: results list with identity theft article citations]

Look for any other information about the content. Check the dates. Depending on the topic, currency may be an important factor.

Other details can indicate whether a specific resource might be useful. For example, statistical data can be used to support an argument in your speech or research paper assignment.

You will also descriptors that give you clues about the depth and breadth of coverage you should expect to find in each article.

Finally, databases have help pages, and some even have tutorials and tip sheets on more advanced searching, so that you can maximize the number of relevant articles when you search.

Of course, you can always get help from any of our Madison College Librarians if you need further assistance. We’re here to help!
Thanks for completing this HOWLER learning unit.