Slide 1 – title: Analyzing Search Results Part II: Using Subject Terms, Preferred Language & Scholarly Articles

Slide 2 - Introduction Slide. 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 3 - General Search Problems. Slide notes: As you search on a topic for the first few times, there is a good chance you will encounter one of the four common problems of initial searching. [images: photos of bicycle race, not equal sign, and stadium]

Slide 4 - Advanced Search. Let's say you do a keyword search for 'healthcare reform' using Academic Search. [graphics: screenshot of EBSCO database interface with keywords entered - healthcare reform]

Slide 5 - quiz clickbox title. ...we get an impressive list of results. Clicking on the article title, shows us the full record for the article. Go ahead and try this. Click on the article titled "remaking America's health-care system". [graphic: 3 article citations]

Slide 6 – Publication Info. The citation gives you more information about the article which can help you decide if it will be useful. It also includes a list of subject terms which you might use in further searches. If the title of the publication is not familiar to you, check if the database offers more information about the source. Go ahead and try this. Click the journal title... [graphic: citation for journal article "Rethinking America’s health-care system]
Slide 7 - Publication details. In this case, the publication details show us that this publication is an academic, peer reviewed medical journal. [graphic: Lancet article]

Slide 8 – Let's take another look at those 3 citations. The list of results shows us that various formats may be available. HTML Full Text indicates that the article is available full text in HTML format. PDF indicates that the article is available full text in PDF format. Find Full Text indicates that the article is not available full text in this database. But you could click to check if this is available in another database, in print, or request the article through InterLibrary Loan. [graphic: 3 citations with 3 format options]

Slide 9 – Caution. One word of caution, however: We cannot locate the full text for every journal request, particularly for those that are published overseas or are titles that are not widely collected. [graphic: cover image for British Journal of Occupational Therapy]

Slide 10 – Yikes. Sometimes your first search produces thousands of results, but you need not panic. [graphic: photo of two people looking shocked]

Slide 11 - Additional Search Options. Sometimes additional search options can help you focus your search to get the results you need. (graphic other limiters) [graphic: limiters screenshot with type, date range, language, title, or disciplines]

Slide 12 - More Limits. In fact, most of our databases have multiple ways to LIMIT your searches to those materials that are more relevant, current, and even in the types of publications you are hoping to find. [graphic: screenshot of limit options in library database]
Slide 13 - quiz clickbox abstract. In many databases, links will lead to even more information about the document. To see an example, Go ahead and Click the title of this article to see more information. [graphic: article citation]

Slide 14 – Abstracts. Abstracts are summaries of an article’s content. Quickly reading the abstract may help you decide if an article may be useful. Note that abstracts in some databases highlight your search terms, which gives you further clues to the degree to which each article is relevant. [graphic: article citation with abstract]

Slide 15 - Where next?

Slide 16 – terminology. As mentioned earlier, article records in the majority of our databases include a list of subject terms assigned to each article. One way to find these terms is through exploratory keyword searching. These can help you in several ways:

Slide 17 - Subject Terms. For one, using subject terms in your searches will give you a more narrow set of results. Note that some of these terms are very specific, such as ‘mass media & children’. Using that term might produce a very small number of results, especially when combined with other subjects, whereas a subject like ‘children’ or ‘violence’ will produce a much larger number of results. [graphic: subject terms listed with mass media and children highlighted]

Slide 18 - Zero results. Have you ever performed a search and gotten very few or no results? Here’s a few suggestions if you ever encounter that situation: [Graphic: no results found, no items matched]
Slide 19 – Suggestions. Check your spelling. Try alternate search terms. Change which fields are being searched. Some databases offer the ability to search citation fields, or even the full text of articles. Remove or change your limiters or filters. Try another database since each database offers a unique content collection. Remember you can ask a librarian which search terms and databases might be useful for your topic.

Slide 20 - Subject searching. Subject searching can help focus a search and eliminate some of the irrelevant results. [graphic: results list with 618 highlighted]

Slide 21 - Global Warm Search

Slide 22 - Subject Terms Ebsco. Slide notes: Another way to find subjects in our Ebscohost databases is to click the ‘Subject Terms’ link at the top of the page. Here you can search for the preferred subject terms for searching in this database. Note in the example, I have searched using the phrase, drugs in sports. Below, the database has indicated that instead of that phrase, I should try using the phrase ‘doping in sports’. Click on that subject term, Doping in Sports!

Slide 23 – Synonyms. You can also try using synonyms you heard or have discovered while looking through the results of your searches. In this case, we’re combing the synonym for ‘Doping’ with the term ‘sports’. Note that the two are connected by the database using ‘AND’, which means both ideas must be present in the set of results. In this case, since we are using a synonym, we are going back to a keyword search. [graphic: screenshot of search boxes with performance-enhancing AND sports as search terms entered]

Slide 24 - Subjects Compare. When results appear, notice that each article will often have a different set of subject terms assigned. [graphic: 2 results listed with subject headings highlighted including doping in sports, performance-enhancing drugs, and drug use testing, …]
Slide 25 - Drop Down

Slide notes: To complete a subject search, make sure you select ‘Subject terms’ using the drop down menu… [next several slides are video demo of drop-down menu and selecting search]

Slide 26 – Selecting.

Slide 27 - Search!
And click search!

Slide 28 – Choice. Generally, these results will be of greater relevance to your topic, but, ultimately, you will have to decide and, perhaps, try a few other searches before you get the sources that address your research question. [graphic: screenshot of search results and Uncle Sam photo with caption "you will need to decide!]

Slide 29 - Preferred Terms. Slide notes: In addition, for every topic, there is a set of terminology you need to absorb as you gain a greater understanding of that topic. Sometimes those terms will be identical to the subject language of the databases, sometimes they will be rather different. [graphic: screenshot of anti-doping article]

Slide 30 - Database differences. And be aware that different databases might use different preferred language in how they determine what articles are about. [graphic: screenshot of preferred language - subject terms list: baseball, leadership, doping in sports, athletes,...]
Slide 31 - Title: Popular v Scholarly Materials

Slide 32 – Clues. Most scholarly articles are at least five pages long and often 20 or more pages. They tend to have more than one author collaborating on both the research and the writing. Scholarly articles are published in journals that you have likely never heard of – these are not publications read by the general public. And finally, the authors of scholarly articles are almost always affiliated with colleges and universities and have advanced degrees in the field they are writing about.

Slide 33 – Structure. Scholarly articles also have a defined structure, with an abstract, methods of study, data, discussion, and a conclusion. They also have references sections that can run for multiple pages. Scholarly articles also have a defined structure, with an abstract, methods of study, data, discussion, and a conclusion. They also have references sections that can run for multiple pages. [graphic: screenshot of references listed at the end of an article]

Slide 34 - Mixed Bag. Many databases, including Academic Search Complete, include a mix of popular and scholarly, peer-reviewed sources. [graphic: logo academic search complete, and image of 2 articles - 1 popular and 1 scholarly]

Slide 35 - Friendly Faces. If you need further help finding or identifying scholarly, peer-reviewed articles on your topic, contact a Madison College Librarian. We are here to help. [graphic: photos of some of our librarians]

Slide 36 - Thank You