Developing your search strategy

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This session will cover…

1. Developing a search strategy
2. Understanding of advanced search techniques using Boolean operators
3. Tips on using
   i. Google Scholar
   ii. Journal Databases
   iii. Primo
Literature searching cycle

- Controlled vocabulary terms
- Synonyms
- Keywords
- Spelling

Identify main concepts

Select library resources to search

- Library catalogue
- Relevant library journal databases
- Other resources

Review and refine results

Search resources

- Boolean operators
- Proximity searching
- Truncation searching

- Evaluate results
- Rethink keywords and terms searched
- Identify other library resources to search
- Create alerts

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My Research question

In what specific ways are law enforcement and intelligence agencies successfully or otherwise impacting on the supply and demand dimensions of global drug trafficking?

Brainstorm keywords

law enforcement, police, intelligence agencies
drug trafficking, illegal drug trade
impact
Basic Search Techniques

BOOLEAN searching
• AND operator
• OR operator
• NOT operator
• Using () to express correct search logic

Truncation
• * and ?

Truncation & Wildcards

Truncation symbols & wildcards are used to retrieve variations of the search term(s).

- "*" at the end of a word to add any possible endings
  eg., child* would search for child, children, childhood
- "?" often used as a wildcard in the middle of a word if it spelt differently
  eg., organi?e would search for organize and organise
- "" around terms indicates a phrase search
  eg., “school principal” would search for the two words together

Check each database’s help page to discover the correct symbol for that database
A collection of fruit and vegetables
The use of **AND** limits a search to items that contain all of the terms. **AND** is the best way to narrow down your search by limiting your results to only those resources which deal with your chosen words. e.g., children and school

**green AND “edible skin” AND seeds**
The use of **OR** expands a search by including all the possibilities, that is, any one of the terms are present. **OR** is often used to broaden a search by linking together a number of synonyms. e.g., children or students will find both terms.
NOT operator

The use of **NOT** excludes an item from a search. Using **NOT** will limit your results list and narrow the topic. This is useful when a keyword may have several distinct meanings. e.g., children NOT babies will remove results that contain the term babies.
Using Synonyms

Group synonyms that you wish to search for together in brackets. Boolean operators are processed in this order: AND, NOT, OR. Expressions in brackets are processed first.

e.g., (pupils OR students) AND school

(green OR “edible skin”) AND seeds
### Connecting your ideas

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<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>AND</th>
<th>Concept 2</th>
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<th>Concept 3</th>
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<td><strong>List all key words/terms as stated in your topic description above</strong></td>
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<td>Drug traffick*</td>
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<td><strong>List synonyms, alternate spelling, language, etc.</strong></td>
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Limits/Refinements of search results

You might need to consider how you will refine your search results

- Do you need to stick to a geographical area?
- Do you need to keep to a particular time frame?
- Do the articles need to be in English?
What types of resources are you looking for?

The types of resources will determine where you look

- Journal articles, books – Primo, journal databases, Google Scholar
- Reports, other forms of Grey Literature - http://libguides.csu.edu.au/grey
- Legislation/International law
Which database to search?

http://www.csu.edu.au/division/library/services/find-books-and-other-resources/databases

- Fulltext databases eg EBSCOhost, Informit Online
- Citation databases eg SCOPUS
- Primo – for Books & eBooks
Google Scholar tips

• **Set up your Library Links** – this will link you through to fulltext at CSU
• Use Cited by & Related links

• Boolean AND use +
• Boolean NOT use –
• Use “” for phrase searching