Advanced search techniques
‘AND’ limits results
‘OR’ broadens results

teenagers  OR  adolescents
Parentheses
Raise your hand if you were born

1. in Autumn
2. in Autumn AND in September
3. in Autumn AND in September OR on an even date
4. (in Autumn AND in September) OR on an even date
5. in Autumn AND (in September OR on an even date)
Phrase searching

• Put quotations around a phrase to keep the words together instead of searching individually

• Before: women in love sexuality

• After: “women in love” sexuality
Truncation

- Canad* gets
  - Canada
  - Canadian
  - Canada’s
  - Canadians’
  - Canadarm
Mandated wildcards

• Replaces a single character
• Great for Canadian spelling

• Organis?ation (use # in Ovid databases)
  • organization
  • organisation
Optional wildcards

• Great for Canadian spelling

• Behavio*ral (use ? In Ovid databases)
  • Behavioural
  • Behavioral
Proximity

• Forces words to appear close together in any order
• The number defines how far apart they can be

• Witches NEAR/3 hats (adj3 in Ovid and N3 in EBSCO)
  • Witches’ hats
  • Witches with fancy hats
  • Hats made by fancy witches
  • Hats made by the fancy witches
Databases have two jobs

1. **Discovery**: Telling you about stuff that exists
2. **Access**: Housing the stuff
Discovery vs. Access

Discovery

Access
Controlled vocabulary

• Classified by a human
• Uses a predefined set of terms
• Discipline specific
• Groups similar items together; regardless of language used by author
The Wire. The complete series. Season 1 [videorecording] /
producer, Nina Kostroff Noble ; created by David Simon ;
Blown Deadline Productions ; a presentation of Home Box Office.

description 5 videodiscs : sd., col. ; 4 3/4 in.
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