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Short Search Log Lesson Plan

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Lesson Plan: The iterative process of searching

Objective: Students will identify keywords, combine those keywords into search statements, and select new keywords based on the search results.

Materials: Computers or tablets, Access to library databases

Procedure:

Ask students where they usually search for information. The answer will likely be google or another internet search engine. Discuss natural language searching used in google in comparison to keyword searching.

Ask students to write their research question at the top of the activity. Help students to identify effective keywords from their research question. Avoid non-descriptive terms.

Briefly show the library database you'll be using. Note how good articles sometimes use different language. Be sure to highlight the blue subject headings in the record as a source of other terminology.

Example: search for "gay marriage" in Academic Search Complete and you will find the term same-sex marriage, domestic partnership, and gay rights movement.

Explain the activity below saying that students should search for terms in their research question, then look for new terms and try to incorporate them into their next search.

NOTE: This activity can be extended by discussing Boolean search strategy and subject specific databases if necessary.

Search Log activity

Name:

Research Topic or Question:

Keywords and Subjects Used	Database	New Terms
<i>Social Media and Employer Policies</i>	<i>Discovery Search</i>	<i>National Labor Relations Act</i>

For Help: Maria Barefoot, barefoot@iup.edu, 105 Stapleton Library, <http://answers.lib.iup.edu/>

ENGL 202 Library Worksheet

NAME:

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