AIRS 2
Advanced Information Research Skills

Modules:
4. Comprehensive search
5. Search alerts
6. Cited Search
Learning outcomes

To be able to:

1. systematically search the literature by formulating effective search statements, using appropriate databases and advanced search techniques.
2. use cited reference searching to find other relevant resources.
3. create table of contents & search alert statements to keep up-to-date.
Assessment: Resource Log (1500-2000 words)

1. Your research question
2. Preliminary search
3. Retrieving and evaluating information
4. Comprehensive search
5. Search alerts
6. Cited reference search
7. Organising the literature
8. Managing data
9. Collaboration
10. Getting published
11. Publication metrics
Search methodologies

1. Preliminary searching
2. Browsing journals
3. Comprehensive searching
4. Cited reference searching
5. Limiting
6. Sustaining - with alerts
The literature review

A literature review requires an extensive search of the literature.

Search for your specific topic, and the related literature:

• This includes seminal literature, the theoretical background, and justification for your choice of methodology.

• You will create several, different searches.

• You will search within a range of different resources.
Databases may contain...

- Dictionaries
- eBooks
- Journals/Magazines
- Newspapers
- Conference Papers
- Multimedia
- Financial Data
- Evidence-based Research
- Statistics
- Geographic Information Systems
- Patents and Standards
- Education Resources
- Legal Information
- Industry Reports
Common features

• help screens
• basic & advanced search
• limiters for date, full text, peer-reviewed, etc.
• record selection & sorting
• print, save
• export to reference management software
• thesauri & subject headings
• email alerts
Database structure

Databases are:

- a collection of records
- with fields
- that contain data
Database differences

The specific **search syntax** used

- check the help screen!

The **fields** that make up the records

- subject, author, full text etc.

You will need to adapt your search across databases.
Planning your search

First - Identify the **key concepts**

**What are the relevant:**

> synonyms
> broader, narrower & related terms
> subject headings

Creativity ➔ ideas, innovation, initiative...
Planning your search

How are social networking sites impacting on the culture of young adults?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social networking sites</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Young adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Synonyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social networking sites</th>
<th>Culture</th>
<th>Young adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social media</td>
<td>Behavior</td>
<td>Youth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social networks</td>
<td>Behaviour</td>
<td>Teen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facebook</td>
<td>Values</td>
<td>Adolescent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twitter</td>
<td>Beliefs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instagram</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Search techniques

| **Boolean operators** | “social media” **AND** youth  
facebook **OR** twitter |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nesting</strong></td>
<td>(“social media” <strong>OR</strong> “social networking site”) <strong>AND</strong> (culture <strong>OR</strong> behaviour)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phrase searching</strong></td>
<td>“social media”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Proximity searching</strong></td>
<td>young <strong>N5</strong> facebook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Truncation</strong></td>
<td>behavi*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wildcards</strong></td>
<td>behavi?r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Field searching</strong></td>
<td>![social networks]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>(Subject, Abstract etc.)</strong></td>
<td>![All subjects &amp; indexing]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Search techniques

**Keyword** searching finds your terms in fields & full text

"social media" AND democracy AND Australia
Using specific fields

Works **by** Barack Obama...

**obama, barack**

Works **about** Barack Obama...

**barack obama**
Using specific fields

Use the database’s thesaurus to browse subjects. They vary in each database.

Search for terms within the subject field:

- social networks
- All subjects & indexing

Example:
- Title: A Rush to the Street as Protesters Worldwide See Democracies Backsliding
- Author: Toub, Amanda; Fisher, Max
- Publication year: 2019
- Subject: Cold War, Trends, Politics, Corruption, Presidents, Demonstrations & protests, Democracy, Extradition
Phrase and proximity searching

Search for a **phrase**: 

\[ "government policy" \]

AND

Or words **near** each other:

- nearby – 5 words apart (w/5, n5)
- in a sentence - 15 words apart
- in a paragraph - 50 words apart

\[ government NEAR/10 policy \]
Truncation & wildcards

Truncation

`behavi*` = behaviour, behaviours, behaving

Wildcards

`Behavi?r` - with an ‘o’ or an ‘ou’

Check the database HELP as symbols vary.
Nesting

Terms in **parentheses** are performed first:

(“social media” OR “social networking sites”) AND (culture OR behaviour)

("respiratory tract infection" OR bronchiolitis) AND management
Database limiters

Use the database’s limiters/filters to further refine the results.
### Activity: Database searching (45 mins)

1. Select QUT [Library databases](http://airs.library.qut.edu.au) relevant for your research
2. Use these techniques to search for your topic/s

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boolean operators</th>
<th>“social media” AND youth facebook OR twitter</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nesting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wildcards</td>
<td>behavi?r</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field searching (Subject, Abstract etc.)</td>
<td><img src="http://airs.library.qut.edu.au" alt="social networks" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Tracking your searches

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Search Statement</th>
<th>Database</th>
<th>Fields / Results / Limiters</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organisational behaviour</td>
<td>(corporate or business or organis?ation*) and (cultur* or behavio* or &quot;work practices&quot;)</td>
<td>Scopus</td>
<td>Title, Abstract: 123 [2004-present, peers reviewed]; Title 53 [2004-present, peer reviewed]</td>
<td>13/07/2014</td>
<td>Mostly theoretical rather than case study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisational behaviour</td>
<td>(Mintzberg) and (Organizational culture)</td>
<td>Scopus</td>
<td>Author-Subject: 14 [2004-present, peer reviewed]</td>
<td>13/07/2014</td>
<td>V. relevant. Content duplicated across multipe articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisational behaviour</td>
<td>(corporate or business or organis?ation*) and (cultur* or behavio* or &quot;work practices&quot;)</td>
<td>Web of Science</td>
<td>Title, Abstract: 43 [2004-present, peers reviewed]; Title 5 [2004-present, peer reviewed]</td>
<td>13/07/2014</td>
<td>Only a few relevant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organisational behaviour</td>
<td>(Mintzberg) and (Organizational culture)</td>
<td>PsycArticles</td>
<td>Author-Subject: 25 [2004-present, peers reviewed]</td>
<td>13/07/2014</td>
<td>Many too clinical or specific. Some highly Relevant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work efficacy</td>
<td>(Bandura) and (efficac* or efficien* or effective*)</td>
<td>Proquest</td>
<td>Author, abstract: 2,523 [Business databases, 2004-present, peer reviewed]</td>
<td>13/07/2014</td>
<td>Many too vague, worth scanning abstracts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For template see [http://airs.library.qut.edu.au/resources/5/1/](http://airs.library.qut.edu.au/resources/5/1/)
Keeping up-to-date

Module 5 Search alerts
Search alert tools

- table of contents (TOC) alerts
- database search alerts
- periodic searching
Activity: TOC alert (15m)

Go to Current Contents Connect, ScienceDirect, EBSCOhost or a publisher’s website and set up a TOC alert.
Citation databases

Module 6 Cited reference search
Cited reference searching

- Determine an author’s standing in the field.
- Discover new authors who have cited relevant papers.
- Identify the research used to develop known work. Track back to the original research.
- Track research strands to current practice & identify gaps in the research.
Traditional VS cited reference search
Cited reference searching

There are a number of citation tools available - indexing different journals, each produces differing results.

Some are better than others for certain disciplines.
Google Scholar cited search

Find this article and view the articles that cite it.
Activity: Cited reference searching (10m)

Find this article in WoS, Scopus and Google Scholar.

How many times has it been cited? View other works that have cited it.

AIRS 3 workshop

You will:

1. Develop a systematic approach to organising, managing and recording information and notes.
2. Apply data management strategies to organise and utilise data proficiently, ethically and legally.
3. Identify a conference to attend and describe the networking benefits.