

Lesson Plan

Grade level(s): 11

Topic: Basic Boolean Search Techniques

Objective(s): Students will define or describe the Boolean basic search techniques.
Students will use Boolean basic search techniques in keyword databases.

Big6 Skills: 2. Information Seeking Strategies

Materials Required: 1. Hand out: "Basic Search Tips" [Gale resources]
2. Hand out: "Boolean Search Definitions" worksheet
3. Hand out: "Boolean Search" worksheet
3. Access to computer lab and LiLI-Databases

Time Required: 40 minutes

Description of activities:

1. Hand out Boolean Search Definitions worksheet and ask students to define each term and impact on searching as a pretest.
2. Ask students for each definition and give students time to write the correct definition.
3. Ask students to describe differences between databases using keyword and natural language searching. Ask students for database examples of each. If no one knows, teacher will give examples.
4. Students will write the research topic on the Boolean Search worksheet and list 4 keywords associated with their topic. Topics were chosen in English class.
5. Students will log into the LiLI databases using the login and password listed on the library bookmark.
6. Students will select the "Students" tab for the list of databases. View the list of available databases. Two databases will be used for this exercise: eLibrary and InfoTrac
7. Open eLibrary to search screen. What kind of searching can be done on eLibrary? Can it be changed?
8. Open InfoTrac to search screen. What kind of searching can be done? Can it be changed?
9. Using InfoTrac, complete the Boolean Search worksheet. Select 3 keywords to use to complete the assignment. Record the keywords that you used for techniques of AND, OR, NOT and combinations on the worksheet. Record results of search.
10. If time allows, use truncation or other Boolean techniques and record results.
11. Which Boolean search worked the best for your research topic?
12. Open eLibrary and search your topic.
13. Which database do you prefer and why? Record your answer on the Boolean Search worksheet.

14. Turn your worksheet into the Librarian. Your score will be recorded by your English Teacher as part of the Research Unit.

Assessment: Completion of Hand outs “Boolean Search Definitions” and “Boolean Search” worksheet. Librarian will score the worksheets and give to the English Teacher to record as part of the Research Unit.

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