Developing an Effective Search Strategy

CRJU 4301: Jurisprudence of Criminal Law
By the end of the class, you will be able to:

- Develop and modify keywords that describe an information need in order to search with maximum flexibility and effectiveness.

- Construct search strategies using appropriate commands for the information retrieval system selected (e.g., Boolean operators, truncation, and proximity for search engines)

- Access the library’s catalog and research databases (GALILEO) in accordance with institutional policies.

- Identify the value and differences of resources in a variety of formats
GALILEO

GALILEO, a state-wide consortium of over 2,000 educational institutions. It provides access to over 100 databases, 10,000 journal titles, and a number of multimedia resources. Accessible only through eligible institutions.
GALILEO

Articles

Journals

Databases
Articles from Scholarly Journals
Articles from Magazines
Articles from Newspapers
Books
eBooks
Streaming Video
Images
Maps
---and more!
Developing an Effective Search Strategy

- Formulate a research question
- Identify key search terms and phrases
- Use standard search techniques to broaden and narrow search
- Identify appropriate information
Research Question

How does violence in the media contribute to juvenile delinquency?
**Research Question ➔ Keywords**

**Never** use sentence structure, such as your research question or thesis statement.

A *keyword* is a word used to search library catalogs (GIL-Find, GIL-Find Universal), article databases (GALILEO), and web search engines (Google Scholar) in order to locate results that match that word in a specified part or in any part of the item, such as the title or in the full text.
Research Question ➔ Keywords

How does violence in the media contribute to juvenile delinquency?
Research Question ➔ Keywords

Keywords:
- media
- television
- videogames
- delinquency
- violence
- offence
- Misdemeanor
- felony
- Youth(s)
- juvenile
- adolescent
- teen
- teenager
- child
- crime
- offence
- misdemeanor
- felony
- youth
- juvenile
- adolescent
- teen
- teenager
- child
- violence
- crime
- offence
- misdemeanor
- felony
- youth
- juvenile
- adolescent
- teen
- teenager
- child
Identify Keywords

- Subject Dictionaries
- General Thesaurus/Dictionary
- Subject Headings
- Subject Encyclopedias

Research Question/Thesis Statement
Now you try...

Write down the research question you have developed for this class. Use the chart provided to help you figure out how to use key search terms.
Search Techniques

Search techniques are the methods you use to search library catalogs (GIL-Find, GIL-Find Universal), article databases (GALILEO), and web search engines (Google Scholar) to find information.
Using Search Operators

AND

Type **AND** between your keywords to narrow your search. The database or search engine will only retrieve those articles or web pages that contain both words. Using **AND** will decrease the number or hits or articles or web pages in your result list.

*Example:* violence **AND** media
Using Search Operators

Type **OR** between your keywords to broaden your search. The database or search engine will retrieve those articles or web pages that contain at least one of these words.

Using **OR** will increase the number of articles or web pages in your result. Use **OR** between keywords that are synonyms or have similar meanings.

*Example:* Juvenile Delinquency **OR** Youth Violence
Using Search Operators

**NOT**

Type **NOT** before a keyword to exclude that keyword from your search. Using **NOT** will decrease the number of articles or web pages in your result list. The best use of **NOT** is when you are searching for a keyword that may have multiple meanings.

*Example:* media **NOT** videogames
Quotation Marks

Quotation marks can be used to identify phrases.

By using quotations marks, you are telling the computer to only bring back pages with the terms you typed in the exact order you typed them.
Quotation Marks

“mass media violence”  
Instead of  
Violence AND Mass AND Media

“Routine Activity Theory”  
Instead of  
Routine AND Activity AND Theory

“Black Guerilla Family”  
Instead of  
Black AND Guerilla AND Family
Quotation Marks
Quotation Marks
Truncation

Truncation allows you to search various forms of a word by finding alternate endings.

The character (*) is placed at the end of the first few letters of a search term or at the end of its root.

Note: A few databases will use a different character. (e.g. Lexis Nexis!)
Truncation

Crimin* Retrieves
Criminal
Criminals
Criminological
Criminology

Teen* Retrieves
Teen
Teens
Teenage
Teenager
Teenagers
Using Advanced Search

Many databases and search engines contain an Advanced Search option.

Using the Advanced Search interface can provide more control over your search results.
Using Advanced Search
Using Advanced Search
Using Advanced Search

Advanced Search

Find pages with...
- all these words:
- this exact word or phrase:
- any of these words:
- none of these words:
- numbers ranging from: ____________ to ____________

Then narrow your results by...
- language:
- region:
- last update:
- site or domain:
- terms appearing:
- SafeSearch:
- reading level:
- file type:
- usage rights:

To do this in the search box.
- Type the important words: tri-colour rat terrier
- Put exact words in quotes: "rat terrier"
- Type OR between all the words you want miniature OR standard: "miniature OR standard"
- Put a minus sign just before words that you don’t want: "rodent, -"Jack Russell"
- Put two full stops between the numbers and add a unit of measurement: 10.35 kg, £300..£500, 2010..2011

Find pages in the language that you select.
Find pages published in a particular region.
Find pages updated within the time that you specify.
Search for terms in the whole page, page title or web address, or links to the page you’re looking for.
Tell SafeSearch whether to filter sexually explicit content.
Find pages at one reading level or just view the level info.
Find pages in the format that you prefer.
Find pages that you are free to use yourself.
Remember

Using advanced search techniques when searching **library catalogs**, **article databases**, and **web search engines** will help refine your search.

They will help limit the number of search results, and the results found should be more **relevant** for your research question.
Using Search Strategies

- **Library Catalogs**
  - GIL-Find
  - GIL Universal
  - Worldcat

- **GALILEO**
  - Galileo Discover
  - SocINDEX
  - Academic Search Complete
  - Research Library (at ProQuest)

- **Search Engines**
  - Google
  - Google Scholar
Using Search Strategies

savannahstate.libguides.com/crju4301
Now you try…

Using the keywords identified in the previous exercise to search for articles using the GALILEO Discover Tool. Identify one article that you might consider using for your research.

Make sure you send a link to yourself!