Part 1. Online Research Databases

Successful Search Strategies: In general, it is not a good idea to use sentences or long phrases in your search statement. Rather than a statement such as “the effects of energy consumption on global warming”, you should create a statement that combines separate terms or concepts using the connecting words AND, OR, and NOT, which are known as *Boolean operators:

AND narrows a search by requiring that all terms be present  
  e.g. Global warming and energy consumption

OR expands a search by allowing either term to be present  
  e.g. teenagers or adolescents

NOT allows you to search for one term, but eliminates all citations with another term  
  e.g. penguins not Pittsburgh

Conduct a search in Academic Search Premier for a scholarly article on your topic.

1. Select one of the following topics:
   Human Geography   Water pollution   Cultural anthropology

2. How many articles did you find? __________

3. Write a brief citation for the first article that you found:

   Author(s): __________________________________________________________

   Year: __________________________________________________________________

   Article title: ___________________________________________________________________

   Journal/Source: __________________________________________________________________

   Volume, issue, pages: __________________________________________________________________

4. Take a look at the Subject Terms that have been assigned to the article. The subjects often suggest good ideas for alternate searches or for terms to combine with your search.

5. Write down two of the Subject Terms here:

   1) ______________________________________  2) ______________________________________
Part 2. Refining a Search

In this section, you will limit a search to a specific journal and a specific time period. Afterwards, you will also limit a search to full-text articles.

Click on New Search at the top of the screen.
1. In the first text box, type the search term: Landforms
   - Change the search field from Default Fields to SU Subject Term.
2. In the second text box type the journal name 'Canadian Geographer'
   - Change the search field from Default Fields to SO Journal Name.
3. For this exercise, you only want articles published from Jan 2000 to the present. Under Published Date specify the years/months you want. Click Search.
   - How many articles matched the search? ______________
4. Now, click on Refine Search tab, and click on the full-text link.
   - How many full-text articles matched the search? ______________

Part 3. Web search (Google)

1. Basic Search: common cold vitamin c (how many hits:____)
2. Advanced: (insert proper punctuation) ___________________________ (how many hits: ____)
3. Google Scholar: (retrieves scholarly journal articles only) (how many hits: ____)
4. Site domain search- site: (e.g. .edu, .gov., .org, .gc.ca)
   - Find: what Canadian government has to say about arthritis:
     (write a search statement here:) ___________________________

5. File type search operators (in Advanced Search)
   a) e.g. Find power point files only (how many hits: ____)

Check: Which of these web sites is the real web site for the American White House?

http://www.whitehouse.org/
http://www.whitehouse.net/
http://www.whitehouse.gov/