Librarian Instructions for the “Basic Database Search Strategies” Lesson & In-Class Activity

Norwich University - Kreitzberg Library

Goals of the Activity

This module is designed with a few basic objectives in mind. First, we want to show students (basically) how and why Library databases don’t work the same way that Google does. Next, we want students to understand how using different combinations of keywords can result in much different search results. The takeaway from this module should be that students feel more comfortable and confident using Library databases to find scholarly sources for their research projects.

Preparing for Your Class

• Read through the “Basic Database Search Strategies” presentation to familiarize yourself with the basics of this class session. This presentation is linked on the LibGuide. Here’s the direct URL for the presentation in case you need it: http://bit.ly/2vm1LLI.

• Print out enough copies of the “Basic Database Search Strategies” worksheet for all the students in the class. Remember that OC policy states that if you need to print more than 25 copies, you should have the Copy Center print them for you.

• The activity will be discussed in class, so there is no need to worry about grading worksheets or providing feedback to students after class.

In Class

1. Set up the Prezi presentation and connect to the classroom’s projector.
2. Click through the presentation to explain the concepts and activities.
3. For the World War II keyword activity, you may need to verbally prompt students to contribute. Try offering a few examples (“Allies,” “Axis Powers,” “Western Front,” “Stalingrad,” etc.) if they aren’t eager to offer their own right away.
4. Students should work on their own to complete the in-class activity. We need them to use the list of keywords for their topic (either Topic A or Topic B) to create different search combinations in Academic Search Premier.
   a. Have the students out-report (one from each topic) to summarize the activity after everyone has completed it.
After Class

1. Log the instruction session on our website: bit.ly/KL_teaching
2. Send the faculty member our post-instruction survey (http://bit.ly/2vPFhHy). Email template for this is available under the “Shared with Me” tab on your OneDrive account (via SSO).
3. Make copies of the worksheets and give them to Claire for assessment purposes.
4. Send the originals back in Intercampus Mail to the professor.