Keyword Searching vs. Subject Searching

*The objective of today’s class is to familiarize students with the concepts of keyword searching and subject searching, and to make them aware of when it is best to use one form of searching over another. By the end of the lesson, students should have the ability to describe these two different types of searching and articulate how they can help information seekers achieve different goals.*

**DISCUSS**

* What are some websites you visit regularly to “look up” information?
* What factors help you determine how you will construct your query?

**TAKE NOTE**

Differences between keyword searching and subject searching:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **KEYWORD SEARCH** | **SUBJECT SEARCH** |
|  |  |

Typically, keyword searches will have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recall and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relevancy, while subject searches will have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relevancy and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ recall.

**REFLECT** What are some key differences between keyword searching and subject searching? Describe one time you had to change your search strategy because you weren’t finding what you were looking for.