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**hog.net Querying Exercise**

# Instructions

Welcome to hog.net – the local network of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. You have been tasked with answering the following research questions by querying the databases available on the local school network:

* books – soft copies of select books from the school library
* comp – personal computers of hog.net users
* e-owl – the magical equivalent of email
* floochat – instant messaging logs between hog.net users (based on the FLOO protocol)
* news – news reports and articles from the international wizarding community
* users – information about hog.net users

It is recommended that you read all questions prior to solving the exercise. You can fill in your answers in the text boxes in this document. Be sure to include references in footnotes and use proper estimative language (“probably”, “possibly”, etc.). If you’d like to contribute to this project, please fill out the self-assessment and feedback form once you have completed the exercise.

Here is an example of a well-referenced answer:

* What is Dumbledore’s favorite snack?

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| --- |
| Dumbledore’s favorite snack is probably Nachos, since he mentions these as his top choice is a list of his all-time favorite snack foods.  ------   1. comp.hog.net:albusd-pc:documents:MyFavoriteSnacks.doc |

To begin the exercise:

1. Install Zim, and extract the “hog.net” folder from the “hog.net.zip” file.
2. Run Zim, click “Add”, “Browse” and then choose the “hog.net” folder.
3. Press  on the toolbar to prevent accidentally editing items in the database.

Technical instructions:

* To query the databases, click Ctrl+Shift+F.
* To search within the current page, click Ctrl+F.
* To search within a certain folder, right click it and then click “Search this section”.
* To copy the location of a certain page (for recording it as a reference in a footnote, for example), right click it in the index and then click “Copy location”.
* To go to a specific page (copied from a reference, for example), click Ctrl+J and then enter the page name or location.
* To add the current page to your list of favorites, press  on the toolbar.
* See appendix for more information on Zim’s query syntax

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# Exercise questions

1. **Who broke into Snape’s office, and why?**

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1. **Where did Ron lose his wand?**

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1. **Complete Hermione’s essay on Muggle Studies, and copy it here in its entirety:**

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| --- |
|  |

1. **What passed by Gryffindor tower?**

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|  |

1. **What type of coffee does Hagrid prefer?**

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1. **Who walked about without their shoes on throughout the school, and why?**

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# Self-assessment and feedback questionnaire

* **How did you go about solving the questions?**

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* **What challenges did you encounter, and how did you overcome them?**

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* **What are your takeaways from the exercise?**

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* **What changes would you make to the exercise? (Such as to the instructions, questions, database entries, difficulty level, etc.)**

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# Appendix – Zim query syntax

**Operators:**

+ AND and && all the words must be on the page

OR or || any one of the words must be on the page

- NOT the page may not contain this word

**Keywords:**

Content:

Name:

Section:

To match partial words you can use "\*" as a wildcard, so the following query will match all words starting with "Some", like "Someday", "Someplace" etc.:

Some\*

As in most search programs (e.g. Google) logical AND is implied by default – if you enter a couple of words in the search dialog, Zim looks for pages that contain all of these words, either in the page name or in the page contents. If you search for pages containing both words foo and bar, the following queries are all equivalent:

foo bar

foo AND bar

foo and bar

foo && bar

+foo +bar

To exclude pages that contain a certain word from your query, prefix the word with a "-" or the NOT operator. It is the opposite of AND. So to look for pages that contain "foo" but not "bar" try one of these:

foo -bar

+foo -bar

foo NOT bar

foo AND NOT bar

For pages that contain neither "foo" nor "bar":

-foo -bar

NOT foo NOT bar

NOT foo AND NOT bar

OR is helpful if you are not sure which exact word occurs in your text. You can enter words with similar meaning that might occur on the page you are looking for. In the following examples the OR operator serves for finding pages containing either "foo" or "bar" or both:

foo OR bar

foo or bar

foo || bar

When combining operators, AND has precedence over OR, so a query like:

foo OR bar AND dus

gives all pages that contain "dus" plus either "foo" or "bar" or both.

To match phrases, i.e. strings containing whitespace (blanks), or to match things that look like operators, you need to put the string between double quotes. Therefore, when looking for the strings "foo bar" and "+1", use:

"foo bar" and "+1"

So far, we have just searched for words within page contents or page names. If you want more control, you can use keywords to specify a specific page property. Such searches limit the scope of the search – they are not only more specific, but in some cases also much faster than normal searches. The keywords for defined fields of pages are:

Content:

Name:

Section:

For example, to only search for page names containing "foo", you can use:

Name: \*foo\*

The "Content:" keyword only matches page contents and excludes page names. The following example will find pages that have foo written somewhere in their page content but that do not contain "foo" in the page name:

Content: foo AND NOT Name: \*foo\*

The "Section:" keyword limits the search to sub-pages of a specific page name. This allows searching a sub-set of the full notebook.

Suppose under Home you have the page "photo" as top level page with multiple pages below it and you want to search only the photo part of your large notebook. You want to find all entries about depth of field or its abbreviation DoF, so you type the following search:

Section: Home:photo "depth of field" or dof