

Module 7 – Electronic databases – Graded assignment

The objective of this assignment is to allow you to apply concepts learned in this module into concrete search tasks. You will practice search techniques for Web-based databases, and experiment with database selection.

Instruction

I. Periodicals in Databases

Go to the library Web site at <http://lib.lbcc.edu>, click on the button “Online Databases”; you will see a list of databases subscribed by the Library. Click on *ProQuest Direct* and log-in using the user ID and password given you at the beginning of the course. *ProQuest Direct* includes many discipline-specific modules. For this assignment, we explore only the following modules:

- Health Module
- Social Science Module
- Multicultural Module
- Business Module
- Psychology Module
- Arts Module

A list of all the publications included in each module will appear when you point the cursor at the module. Briefly scan through the first few pages of the list of publications of each module to see the names of the publications included in each module. Answer the following questions:

1. Do some modules have the same periodical?
2. List one periodical that appears simultaneously in different modules?
3. Are many of the periodicals offering full-text articles? (Full-text availability is denoted by an icon).
4. Based on your observation of the list of periodicals from these modules, discuss the importance (i.e. the why and how) of doing research in appropriate discipline-specific module.

II. Database selection

The first important step to research is to select the most appropriate database for the topic. Although the six topics listed below can be searched in one or two modules, I want you to select six different modules, each most closely matched with the topic, as the purpose of this assignment is to acquaint you with various discipline-specific modules. Discuss your search for the six topics listed below by answering the questions.

1. Topic : Graffiti.
 - Which module did you select for this topic? Why?

- What type of periodicals that are indexed in this database (i.e. popular or scholarly or both)?
 - Give the exact search terms you used for this search.
 - Give one relevant citation from you search result.
2. Topic: The growth of cell phone business.
 - Which module did you select for this topic? Why?
 - What type of periodicals that are indexed in this database (i.e. popular or scholarly or both)?
 - Give the exact search terms you used for this search.
 - Give one relevant citation from you search result.
 3. Topic: Children having diabetes.
 - Which module did you select for this topic? Why?
 - What type of periodicals that are indexed in this database (i.e. popular or scholarly or both)?
 - Give the exact search terms you used for this search.
 - Give one relevant citation from you search result.
 4. Topic: Night-eating syndrome.
 - Which module do you select for this topic? Why?
 - What type of periodicals that are indexed in this database (i.e. popular or scholarly or both)?
 - Give the exact search terms you used for this search.
 - Give one relevant citation from you search result.
 5. Topic: The success of a multicultural education.
 - Which module do you select for this topic? Why?
 - What type of periodicals are indexed in this database (i.e. popular or scholarly or both)?
 - Give the exact search terms you used for this search.
 - Give one relevant citation from you search result.
 6. Topic: The family life of women executives.
 - Which module do you select for this topic? Why?
 - What type of periodicals that are indexed in this database (i.e. popular or scholarly or both)?
 - Give the exact search terms you used for this search.
 - Give one relevant citation from you search result.

III. Boolean Search (also called Guided Search)

1. Perform a Boolean search on the topic of **“affirmative action and college admissions in California”**.
 - List the search terms, the fields, and the Boolean operators you used for this search.

- List one relevant citation from your search result.
2. Perform a Boolean search on the topic of **“affirmative action and college admissions but not in California”**.
 - List the search terms, the fields, and the Boolean operators you used for this search.
 - List one relevant citation from your search result.
 3. Note the number of hits obtained for each search and discuss the difference.