COMP 101 - MITCHELL

Crumb Library

October 19, 2009

Starting Research

- **What?**
  - Topic
  - Background
    - Searching terminology
- **Where?**
  - Look for information
    - Print and electronic <u>library resources</u>
- **How?**
  - Effective and efficient approach to research

Reference Collection

The part of the library's holdings that contain a selection of materials such as encyclopedias, dictionaries, almanacs, directories, or statistical sources as well as periodical indexes, and subject bibliographies. **They generally provide brief information for the initial stages of research.**

Encyclopedias in particular provide background information, set the framework and introduce the terminology for your topic.

Finding Resources

□ Reference Collection

    □ BROWSE – by CLASSIFICATION

        ■ A system of arranging materials by subject - the Library of Congress Classification System is used in most academic libraries.

    □ SEARCH the Libraries' CATALOG – BearCAT

        ■ A database that organizes the materials our library collects through bibliographic records that provide access by author, title, subject, etc. and identifies where these material are located.

Finding Resources

- SUBJECT HEADINGS (Subjects; Descriptors) are based on a CONTROLLED VOCABULARY and are assigned to the records based on an <u>analysis</u> of content
  - A set of standard subject terms used by a database to describe the subject content of the items cited within the database
  - Frequently displayed in a thesaurus that describes relationships between terms – Broader, narrower, related
- KEYWORDS
  - a significant word or phrase in the text of a record in a database that is used as a search term in a <u>free-text search</u> to retrieve all the records containing it.

York, John.

"This is an article title". Journal of Great Information. Volume 6, number 1. pages 1-15. 19 October 2009.

The author provides a thorough study of options for providing health care reform in Great Britain. New ideas are key to maintaining a strong national health service for all citizens.

Subjects: Health care reform – Great Britain

Search | Health care reform new york in Keywords |

Finding Books

- BearCAT – local holdings
  - Check status for location and availability
- WorldCat – "universal" catalog with links to Interlibrary Loan service

- Subject Headings are selected from the Library of Congress Subject Headings
- Broad subject headings
- Use index or table of contents to focus on topic

Finding Articles

- General databases provide a good starting point
  - Is there a subject specific database that works for your topic?
- Academic Search Complete- example
  - Advanced Search
    - BOOLEAN SEARCHING
      - a technique that combines keywords using connecting terms called Boolean Operators in an online search tool. The three basic Boolean Operators are AND, OR, and NOT.
    - Limiters – type of resource; date range
    - Identification of subject headings (controlled vocabulary)
    - Option to narrow search by adding (Boolean AND) terms

Keeping track of your research

- Research Log
  - Database/Search Strategy/Results/Analysis
- Vendor-level personal search accounts
  - Retrievable over time
  - Search strategies – ability to revise and/or rerun search
  - Mark and save specific citations from results lists
    - Separate results in named files
    - Add free-text notes