

# Origins of Language

## Dr. Johnson-Weiner

Nancy Alzo

Crumb Library

March 18, 2010

# Review of Finding Books and Articles

- WorldCat
  - Displays local holdings and links to BearCat
    - Option for Interlibrary Loan when no local holdings
  - Search specific fields as appropriate
    - Author; title; subject
    - Keyword searching versus Subject Headings
      - Links from indexed terms
    - Database (Vendor) features to enhance searching and management of results

# Review of Finding Books and Articles

- Access to hundreds of databases that index article content
- Use subject links on Library web pages to focus topically
- Search interface is provided by vendors
  - Similarities
    - Advanced search templates for boolean searching
    - Limits for controlling search results

# Approaching your search

- Decide “where” you will search
  - Choose an appropriate resource
- Define “what” you will search
  - Terms, phrases for searching
- Determine “how” you will search
  - Control results to meet requirements for assignment
  - Put your search into the database search template

# Evaluating your results

- Too few or too many?
  - Revise your search strategy
- Use full record and abstracts to assess content of articles
- Use the subject or descriptors assigned to a “good” record to find more of the same
  - Keywords versus subject headings (descriptors)
    - THINK CONTEXT!

# Magazine or Journal?

- Peer reviewed? Scholarly? Academic?  
Popular?
- <http://www.library.brocku.ca/help/scpr.htm>
- What does your instructor say?

# Primary and Secondary Sources

- Definition of a primary source is specific to your field of study
- Generally primary sources are original and secondary sources write about the primary sources
- What does your instructor say?
- Observations, reports of original research, documents...what else?

# Keeping a research log

- How does it benefit your research?
- Blending a log with database accounts and features
  - Most databases allow you to establish an account and save search strategies and results