Research

Using Databases
Getting ready to do your research

- What is your topic?
- What question are you trying to answer?
Narrow down your topic.

- Imagine a book, article, or website about your topic.
- What words are in the title or summary?
Search terms

- Create a list of words related to your research topic.
- These are your search terms.
- Think of synonyms because you might have to use different combinations of words to find the information you’re looking for.
The research process. Finding answers.

Your question might change as you do research. That’s okay!
How to search databases.

Use keywords or boolean search terms.
Keywords

Keywords—Computers index

"significant" or important words in databases. They select the words from the title, summary, subject or even the actual articles. (This is a general way to search a database.)
Boolean search

Search databases using:

Boolean Search Terms - NOT, AND, OR
BOO-lean operators

Ghost

NOT
Scream

Scream

NOT
Ghost

Ghost

AND
Scream

Scream

OR
Ghost
Not

Use NOT in a search to:

● exclude words from your search
● narrow your search

Ghost NOT Scream = only articles with the word Ghost
AND

Use AND in a search to:

- narrow your results
- tell the database that ALL search terms must be present in the resulting records
- Ghost AND Scream = only articles that have BOTH the words Ghost and Scream
OR

Use OR in a search to:

- connect two or more similar concepts (synonyms)
- broaden your results, telling the database that ANY of your search terms can be present in the resulting records
- Ghost OR Scream = articles that contain Ghost, or Scream or both Ghost and Scream
http://sunsetparkhighschool.libguides.com/research
Topic: SX-70 polaroid camera
I searched Research in Context for information about the SX-70 camera.
I search for information on Polaroid cameras.
Resource: Academic One File

I check this for magazine articles and academic articles.

https://go.galegroup.com/ps/start.do?p=AONE&u=nysl_me_ps169_sp

I use the search terms: polaroid and sx-70
Resource: Google

I search google and judge which are reliable sources.


https://polaroid.com/history

https://us.polaroidoriginals.com/products/sx70-polaroid-camera

https://us.polaroidoriginals.com/products/color-instant-film-for-sx70
I searched Google Patents to find patent illustrations for SX-70 camera


I check to see when the patent expired:

1991-11-05
Anticipated expiration
2019-05-01
Application status is Expired - Lifetime

This means I can legally use the patent images for my own use: personal or commercial. For example, in my zine.