

# Discover your research skills

## Answer Sheet

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# Thank you

for attempting the quiz. This is not a test, but a self discovery tool for you to determine your research skill level. If you answered all of the questions correctly, CONGRATULATIONS! You are well on your way to becoming an excellent researcher.

1. Related terms broaden your search and ensure that you search on all aspects of your topic. Related terms are joined with the word **OR**

The related terms for **research** could be:  
Research OR researching OR researchers  
Research OR methodology OR data  
Research OR projects OR researcher

**Answer: Research OR methodology OR data**

Research OR methodology OR data will broaden your search to include related terms.  
Research OR researching OR researchers is a variation of the root word, research. A truncation symbol would make your search more effective: research\*  
Research OR projects OR researcher reduces the number of aspects of your search topic. A more effective search using these words would be research\* OR project\*

2. Truncation is very useful because you don't have to think about how a word ends. Truncation symbols vary, but the most common symbol is the \*. Place the \* at the root part of the word.

The appropriate place for the \* to find all endings for **politics** is:

poli\*, polit\*  
polit\*, pol\*  
polit\*, politi\*

**Answer: polit\*, politi\***

polit\*, politi\* will find politics, political, politicians, but will not find words such as policy, police poltergeist

poli\*, polit\* poli will find words such as police or policy

polit\*, pol\* pol\* will also find words such as policy or policy

Remember: be careful if truncating after 3 letters

3. The term 'Boolean' refers to the way your search terms are joined. The are two main Boolean terms: **and or**

A Boolean search could be constructed for the topic “**education for children**” in the following way:

(educat\* or learn\*) and (children or child\*)

(educat\* or education\*) and (child\* or kids)

(educat\* or learn\*) and (child\* or youth\*)

**Answer: (educat\* or learn\*) and (child\* or youth\*)**

(educat\* or learn\*) and (child\* or youth\*) this search will find related terms for education and children and the search also appropriately uses the truncation symbol

(educat\* or education\*) and (child\* or kids) educat\* or education\* , nesting these words is not useful as educat\* will find education

(educat\* or learn\*) and (children or child\*) children or child\*, nesting these words is not useful as child\* will find children

4. Subject headings are found in the Library Catalogue and in databases. They indicate the main topic of a book or article.

Subject headings are:

Terms created by users so anyone can find topics

Terms created by librarians used as preferred terminology

Terms added by authors to locate extra topics

**Answer: Terms created by librarians used as preferred terminology**

Terms created by librarians used as preferred terminology. Librarians use a standard way of describing items, called subject headings, so that ALL items on that topic may be retrieved. Users and authors may also contribute to describing an item, but these terms do not conform to a standard.

5. It is important to remember spelling varies within the Library Catalogue and databases.

Which statement is **FALSE**

I will be marked down if I don't spell the terms correctly

I will find additional items when searching with both terms

I will be able to construct a search using both spelling terms

**Answer: I will be marked down if I don't spell the terms correctly**

I will be marked down if I don't spell the terms correctly: spelling will affect your search results, so always have an idea of the kind of result you are expecting, for example if you were searching on the term management you would expect thousands of results, if you only retrieve a small number, check your spelling. You will not be marked on the search, but it may affect the literature you access due to the small numbers.

I will find additional items when searching with both terms: yes you will, for example searching on the term organization OR organisation will find more items

I will be able to construct a search using both spelling terms: yes, as in the example above you can construct your search using OR

6. Adjacency searches bring concepts together and reduce the number of results. Often articles may be more relevant using adjacency searches.

**history near5 war** will find:

history will be the 5<sup>th</sup> word in sentence with war

war will be the 5<sup>th</sup> word in a sentence with history

war will be anywhere within 5 words of history

**Answer: war will be anywhere within 5 words of history**

This is the correct answer, because the 'near' operator does not count sentences, so for example these words may be in two separate sentences or in reverse order.

7. The Library Catalogue and databases both contain journals.

The **difference** between the Library Catalogue and databases is:

The Library catalogue is just a small list of journals titles while a database is a larger list of journals titles mostly from the United States of America

The Library catalogue is quick and easy to search while databases take longer to search because there are many more journals in databases

The Library catalogue indicates the journal title it provides access to while the database may hold journal titles the Library does not provide access to

**Answer: The Library catalogue indicates the journal title it provides access to while the database may hold journal titles the Library does not provide access to**

Databases provides access to millions of articles and Libraries cannot provide access to all of these articles. The Library catalogue will provide you with information such as if the Library has access and from what year the access begins.

Note: Remember, if the Library does not hold the article, use Document Delivery

8. The Web of Science database is a major research tool because it allows topic searches and cited reference searches.

Which statement is **TRUE**? Web of Science:

Only searches high impact journals unlike other databases

Searches journals that are not considered high impact journals

Covers only the science disciplines, arts and humanities are not represented

**Answer: Only searches high impact journals unlike other databases**

Web of Science is a database that tracks high impact journals, that is journals that receive a lot of citations to their articles. Web of Science does cover arts and humanities.

9. Databases and Google have some similarities as they can have the same articles in both.

Which statement is **TRUE**

If I use Google and two Library databases this should cover most of my research topic

If I use Google and set up alerts in appropriate databases this should cover most of my research topic

I should never use Google as it has not been mentioned and my supervisor told me to use databases

**Answer: If I use Google and set up alerts in appropriate databases this should cover most of my research topic**

Google is a favourite search engine with many researchers, but results can be frustrating as there is a mixture of good and bad results. Using databases provides access to material that is only available through the Library spending millions of dollars so researchers can access the most up to date and relevant material in their field.

For more information, or if you would like to follow up on any of the search skills, please contact me:

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