Guided Practice Worksheet (EBSCOhost)

Instructions

This exercise will help you optimize a search in a library database to a manageable number of precise, relevant results. Perform the same search in EBSCOhost's **Business Source Complete** (BSC) and one other database of your choice. Record the number of your search results in the last two columns.

For search tips see our Library Resources Guide or the Pfeiffer Library's tutorial, Navigating an EBSCOhost Database. To change databases in EBSCOhost, select **Choose Databases** from the search window. You may select multiple databases to search simultaneously (though you won't know how many results you obtained for each).

Search Strategy	Limiter	BSC	Other
Keywords, with and without field restrictions (e.g. search in author, title, or abstract field)	1. Keyword phrase (any field): **job satisfaction** 2. Specify keywords in the **abstract field** (title field would be more precise, but too limiting for now):		
Identify specific **subject** (SU) or **descriptor** (DE) terms. Note: use of a thesaurus or controlled vocabulary is specific to each database, so never guess a term or assume a SU or DE in one database will work in others. If you receive zero results, change your subject term, search a different field (keyword, title, or abstract), or don't specify field at all (default).	3. Identify a subject specification for the term that comes closest to the keyword phrase, **"turnover intention."** If the database doesn't recognize that term, find an alternative by expanding the subject limiter or searching the abstracts of 1-3 articles to identify a more promising subject. Tip: if you search for keywords in titles and your results become too low, change the field restriction to abstract or no field at all.		
Add controlled vocabulary to increase precision and specificity.	4. Now combine all searches in one query.		

Search Strategy	Limiter	BSC	Other
Exclude keywords by use of the **NOT** operator (e.g. NOT reviews or NOT meta-analyses).	5. Examine your results above and identify an unwanted keyword or phrase that appears in several articles. Now add that term as an exclusion. Note: if you're left with too few results remove the condition from the last step. Alternatively, examine a few unwanted articles to identify irrelevant subject terms or other characteristics to exclude (e.g. articles in a different language or regarding a country that does not interest you).		
Limit by document characteristics (in EBSCOhost, checkboxes found in left column under search fields)	6. Limit to scholarly, peer-reviewed journals only. Optionally, limit to a quantitative study, if the option is available. 7. Further specify full-text availability.		
Limit by year	8. Restrict results to articles published in the past 5 years.		
You try it!	9. Now try a search of your own and report results. Do you feel your results are more precise and accurate now, or the same as before this exercise?		

For additional resources, be sure to review the library's topical Guides and Tutorials.