# Library Search Worksheet

#### **Overview**

The guided exercise, starting on Page 6, 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 (see suggested choices on the last page).

## Tips:

- Though the TU Library provides access to many different database vendors, this exercise highlights **EBSCOhost**, which includes the most business-related resources in one search tool. See the list following the table below for additional databases. Keep in mind, no one single database indexes every article related to your topic. Each database contracts with various publishers and authors and you should search multiple databases for the most comprehensive results.
- To simplify this exercise, you will use EBSCOhost's **Advanced Search**, which provides dropdown menus to specify how to search (e.g. by title, author, subject, date, journal, etc.). The Basic Search offers a more Google-like experience, with few options, though expert searchers can use it to manually specify each database's specialized search options. For example: Self-directed in AB and (adult education in SU or adults in SU) and motivation\* and PY > 2015
- To quickly retrieve known items in a database (e.g. identified by a citation), search by a combination of unique keyword(s) in the title (TI) and last name of one author (AU). For example: TI failure tolerant and AU Farson.

	Searching: Business Source Complete Choose Databases					
EBSCOhost	"job satisfaction"		SU Subject Terms 🔻	Search		
	AND - surveys	AB Abstract or Author-Supplied Abstr		Clear ?		
	NOT - "Great Britain" or India	AB Abstract or Author-	Supplied Abstract -	+-		
	Basic Search Advanced Search Search History					

### Screenshot 1: EBSCOhost Advanced Search Screen



#### **Screenshot 2: EBSCOhost Limiters and Search Features**

### Screenshot 3: EBSCOhost Results Page



## **Finding Cited Material**

Quite often, you find the perfect article and want to identify additional materials that cite that item. Perhaps the original was a "seminal" work from many years ago and you want to find more current materials that cited the original. EBSCOhost has a feature for that!

In an individual database (e.g. Business Source Complete or Academic Search Complete), locate the **Cited Reference** link on the top search menu. Note that this option is not available in DragonQuest, as it's not a unique database (rather, it is a convenient front-end to search multiple databases). See Screenshots 4-6 below.



## **Screenshot 4: Cited References Link**

#### **Screenshot 5: Search for Original Item**



Screenshot 6: Cited References Link



# **Search Exercise**

### Instructions

Work thorough this guided exercise until you drill down results to a manageable number of precise, relevant results. Perform the same search in **Business Source Complete** (BSC) and one other database of your choice (see suggested choices on the last page). Enter the number of your search results in the last two columns. 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). See Screenshot 1 above.

Search Strategy	Limiter	BSC	Other
Keywords, with and without field restrictions (e.g. search in author, title, or abstract field)	<ol> <li>Keyword phrase (any field): job satisfaction</li> <li>Specify keywords in the abstract field (title field would be more precise, but too limiting for now):</li> </ol>		
Identify specific <b>subject</b> (SU) or <b>descriptor</b> (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).	<ol> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ol>		
Add controlled vocabulary to increase precision and specificity.	4. Now combine all searches in one query.		
Exclude keywords by use of the <b>NOT</b> 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.		

Search Strategy	Limiter	BSC	Other
	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)	<ol> <li>Limit to scholarly, peer-reviewed journals only. Optionally, limit to a quantitative study, if the option is available.</li> <li>Further specify full-text availability.</li> </ol>		
Limit by year	<ol> <li>Restrict results to articles published in the past 5 years.</li> </ol>		
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?		

## Best TU Databases for Global Leadership & Change:

- Business Source Complete (EBSCOhost)
- Dissertations & Theses A&I (ProQuest)
- Emerald Insight (Emerald Publishing)
- Entrepreneurial Studies Source (EBSCOhost)
- Human Resources Abstracts (EBSCOhost)
- <u>Nexis Uni</u> (LexisNexis)

For additional resources, be sure to review the library's targeted guides for <u>Doctoral</u> and <u>Business School</u> students, as well as for the <u>Global Leadership & Change program</u>.