

Basic Searching Techniques

- Breaking down your topic (slide 2)
- Identifying search terms (slide 3)
- Basic searching techniques (slide 4)
- Boolean Operators (slides 5-6)
- Truncation/Wildcards (slide 7)
- Phrase searching (slide 8)
- Field searching (slide 9)
- Setting limits (slide 10)
- Putting it all together (slide 11)
- Refining your search (slides 12-14)

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

1

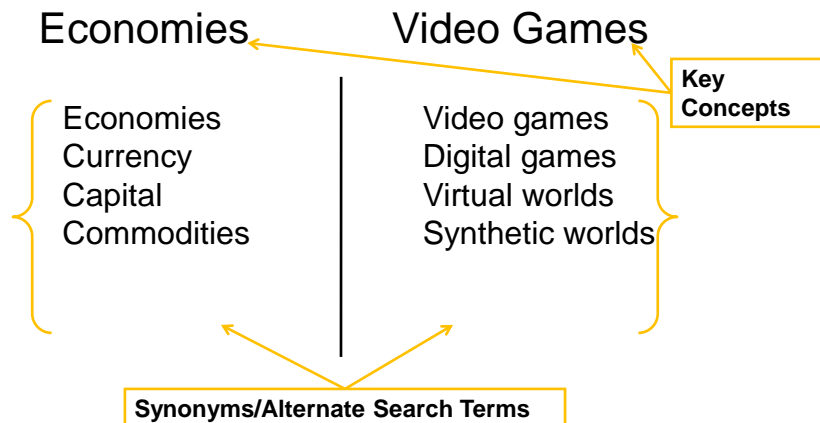
Breaking down your Topic

- Imagine the title of the ideal book or magazine article
 - The virtual economies of video games
- Identify key concepts
 - Economies / Video Games
- Think of synonyms or alternate search words

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

2

Identifying Search Terms



WATERLOO
LIBRARY

3

Basic Searching Techniques

- Boolean Operators
- Truncation
- Phrase Searching
- Field Searching
- Setting Limits

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

4

Boolean Operators

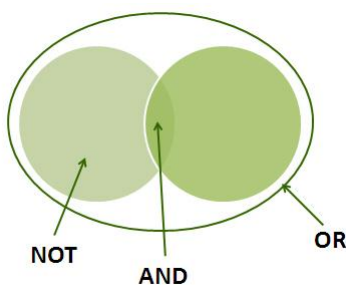
Boolean operators link concepts within a search

- **AND** (to include all terms / concepts)
- **OR** (to include at least one term / concept)
- **NOT** (to exclude terms / concepts)

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

5

Boolean Operators



WATERLOO
LIBRARY

6

Truncation or Wildcards

- Expands a term to include all forms of the root word:

*econom** finds economics, economy, economies, economical

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

7

Phrase Searching

- Phrase searching forces the database to look for two or more words together

Instead of:

video games

Try:

“video games” or (video games)

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

8

Field Searching

- Title
- Author
- Subject
- Descriptor
- Anywhere

**WATERLOO
LIBRARY**

9

Setting Limits

- Language
- Date
- Type of Publication

**WATERLOO
LIBRARY**

10

Putting It All Together

(video game* **OR** digital game* **OR** synthetic world* **OR** virtual world*)

AND

(econom* **OR** currenc* **OR** capital **OR** commodit*)

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

11

Refining Your Search

- To find **FEWER** results,
 - Search in specific fields (title, abstract, subjects etc.)
 - Add or change search limits (date, language, etc.)
 - Add more search terms (using AND)
 - Use phrase searching instead of AND

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

12

Refining Your Search

- To find **MORE** results,
 - Use truncation or wildcard characters (* or ?)
 - Include more synonyms (use OR)
 - Search “anywhere” rather than in specific fields
 - Remove search limits (e.g. date, language, etc.)

Use **AND** instead of phrase searching

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

13

Refining Your Search

- To find more **RELEVANT** results,
 - Use NOT to exclude unwanted terms
 - Search specific fields (title, abstract, subject/descriptor, etc.)
 - Use AND instead of OR

WATERLOO
LIBRARY

14