ENG101: Writing About Wolves (Geary)

Libguide: [http://libguides.bristolcc.edu/eng101/wolves](http://libguides.bristolcc.edu/eng101/wolves)

Research and Instruction Librarian: Emily Brown
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  774.357.3040

**Finding Help**

**Chat:** Chat reference service are available online. A librarian is available to chat during research help hours.

**Telephone:** Contact the research help desk at 508-678-2811 ext. 2108.

**In person:** A librarian is available at the research help desk at the following times:
  Monday through Thursday: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm
  Friday: 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
  Saturday: 10:00 am - 5:00 pm
  Sunday: 12:00 - 5:00 pm

**Book-A-Librarian (appointment):** This service is open to all BCC students, faculty, and staff. You can "book" time with a librarian (up to 60 minutes) so that we can sit down and help you, one-on-one, with your research.

**E-mail:** Complete the form on the help page, and a librarian will e-mail you back with answers and suggestions. You will receive a reply within 2 business days.

**Resource Overview**

For your assignment you will need to use at least to find several credible sources. Here’s what we’ll be covering today.

- Course Guide
- Research Databases
  - Credo Reference
  - Academic Search Premier
  - Science Direct
- Website Searching
KEYWORD SEARCHING

Choosing Keywords
Choosing your search words, or keywords, correctly can mean the difference between relevant and irrelevant results. Start with your thesis statement or question for inspiration on choosing keywords.

Example: Because wolves promote ecological diversity, provide opportunities for scientific study, and stabilize local food chains, a conservation effort that also allows for financial benefits to local and state governments should be strongly encouraged.

-> If this were your thesis statement, logical keywords and alternative keywords could be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wolves</th>
<th>“Ecological Diversity”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canis Lupus OR wolf</td>
<td>“scientific study” OR “local food chains” OR conservation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Alternative keywords help to identify other words that may be used in articles to say the same thing. Choosing alternative keywords is almost as important as choosing your main search terms.

Phrase Searching
Phrase searching allows you to search for a phrase, as opposed to individual words. To complete a phrase search, use quotation marks around two or more word phrases. This will give you far more specific results.

Example: red wolf = 310 results
“red wolf” = 148 results

Truncation
Truncation allows a researcher to search for multiple endings for a single word in a single search instead of trying spelling variations in multiple searchers. Most databases require the use of the asterisk (*) as the truncation symbol. If you’re not sure what a database requires, consult a librarian or the Help Menu of the database.

Example: conserv* finds items with the words conserve, conservation, conserving, conserved etc.

Boolean Logic
Using Boolean Logic in your advanced search means that you are using command words (Boolean operators) to connect your search terms. Boolean Logic allows you to conduct a more specific search and find relevant and specific information. The three Boolean operators are **AND, OR, and NOT**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AND</th>
<th>OR</th>
<th>NOT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Search Results will contain all search terms used.</td>
<td>Search results will contain at least 1 search term used</td>
<td>Search results will not contain the eliminated word.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wolf AND “ecological diversity”</td>
<td>Wolf OR “canis lupus”</td>
<td>“canis lupus” NOT “Canis lupus familiaris”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADVANCED SEARCHING

**Academic Search Premier**

- "And" as default between search boxes
- Keywords with Boolean Operator "OR"

**Science Direct**

- Keywords with Boolean Operator "OR"
RESEARCH ON THE INTERNET

Authority and Accuracy: Who produced this site? Is it a credible source? What is the purpose of the site? Why was it created? Is the person, organization, or group to write this content credible? What is the domain of the URL?

Some common domains are:
- .com or .biz - a business or commercial website
- .edu - an educational institution
- .gov or .mil - a US military or government website
- .net - a personal website
- .org - a website for a non-profit organization

Documentation: Is there adequate documentation for factual statements? Is the documentation reliable, verifiable from a second source? Is there enough information to cite this website in a paper (author, title, source, date)?

Currency: Is the information up to date? When was it created, late edited, etc.? Are the links up to date or dead? Is the author using outdated statistics?

Objectivity/Bias: Is the website biased or slanted? Are there few or no logical errors such as appeal to authority, circular reasoning, etc.? If you found this information in a printed source, would you trust it?

Site Limiting

Use site limiting to narrow your search to a specific domain or URL.

Use the advanced search to find more specific results.

In the advanced search you can specify:
- Domain
- Language
- Last Update
- File Type