A Few Things about the Library

Dr. Ellen Broidy
Searching using Boolean Logic

- **AND**
  Homelessness *AND* Children
  This type of search will result in entries that must contain both words. You may use “AND” to narrow a search.

- **OR**
  Infants *OR* Babies
  This type of search will result in entries that contain either of the words. Use “OR” to broaden a search.

- **NOT**
  Penguin *NOT* Pittsburgh
  What do you think NOT does?
Wildcards and Truncation: Examples from EBSCO

- **Wildcards**
  You can use three types of wildcard characters in your search terms. The question mark (?) matches exactly one letter. The pound or hash sign (#) matches zero or one character. The asterisk (*) matches multiple characters. Use wildcards to create searches where there are unknown characters, multiple spellings or various endings. None of the wildcards can be used as the first character in a search term.

- **Question-mark wildcard**
  To use the ? wildcard, enter your search terms and replace each unknown character with a ?. For example, type ne?t to find all records containing neat, nest or next.

- **Pound/hash wildcard**
  To use the # wildcard, enter your search terms and place # where an alternate spelling might contain an extra character. For example, type colo#r to find all citations containing color or colour.

  **Note:** When using the pound/hash (#) wildcard, plurals and possessives of that term are not searched. For example, when running a search for the term colo#r, the terms "colors" and "colours" will not be searched (which they are by default when using the singular "color" or "colour" without a wildcard operator).

- **Asterisk wildcard** (also called Truncation symbol)
  To use the asterisk (*) wildcard, enter the root of a search term and replace the ending with an *. For example, type comput* to find the words computer or computing. The asterisk (*) may also be used between words to match any word. For example, 'midsummer * dream' will return results that contain the exact phrase, 'midsummer night’s dream.'

- **NOTE:** Wildcards/truncation *not* necessary consistent across databases. Always refer to “help” screens
Articles and Databases

Organized by subject; further organized by Most Recommended For... and All Databases For...

- Chemical Engineering: SciFinder, Compendex
- Black Studies: Black Studies Center, Ethnic Newswatch
- Sociology: Sociological Abstracts
- Global Studies: PAIS, Social Sciences Database
- Economics: Econlib, RePEc (Research Papers in Economics)
- Environmental Studies: Environment Index, Agricultural & Environmental Science Database
- Physics: ArXIV, Compendex, Lecture Notes in Physics
All Databases For...

- Useful across disciplines
- Useful for interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary research
- Excellent places to start
Some of Dr. E’s Favorites

- Web of Science (WoS)
- JSTOR
- Academic Search Complete
- Proquest Dissertations and Theses
What’s So Special About WoS

- **Basic search**: pretty straightforward:
  Search for terms in topic, title, author

- **Cited Reference Search**: gets a lot fancier
  Search for articles that “cite” a particular work
What’s So Special about **Dissertations**?

- Dissertations provide great “raw” material
- Dissertations let you know which faculty are interested in what subjects
- Dissertations provide snapshot of who studied what in which school/department
- Dissertations are in your future; make sure to read a few (to get a sense of what they’re are all about)