GEOS 242 Library Session

Learning Outcomes
At the end of the session, you should be able to

- revise search keywords or strategy to improve results
- differentiate between databases and select the best applications for them
- identify and apply the language of the specialist when searching for literature
- use a citation to get the full-text of a journal article

Task 1
You have been assigned to write a paper about fracking and earthquakes. You need to find credible resources to use in your paper. From the video you watched before coming to this, you know that the library has Academic Search Premier, a database with articles on many subjects, which you can use to find resources using keywords.

Remember that you can combine your terms with the Boolean operator **AND** to require all concepts are included in your search results and that an asterisk can be used for stemming.

1. Write down the search you are going to use in Academic Search Premier. Use asterisks for stemming and combine your concepts using the Boolean operators **AND** and **OR**.

   **Examples:**
   - volcano* AND eruptions
   - "submarine volcanoes" AND pacific
   - debris AND (flow* OR avalanche*)

Go to Academic Search Premier via either library.boisestate.edu and clicking on the database tab or the GEOS 242 guide (guides.boisestate.edu/GEOS242) and then clicking on Academic Search Premier. Enter your search into the search box and review your results and the Refine Results column on the left.

2. How many results do you get?

3. On the results screen, what subject terms do you see that are synonyms for or related to the two concepts you are looking for information on? Write down one at least one for each concept.

   Fracking (concept 1):

   Earthquakes (concept 2):
4. What source types do you see? Which types are scholarly? Which are popular media?
   Scholarly:

   Popular:

Select a popular media resource to investigate further.

5. Can you get the full text of the article? If so, how did you get it?

6. Does the database provide a tool to help you cite this in APA citation format?

Critical Thinking Questions

a) After identifying concept synonyms and/or related terms, how would revise your search from step 1 to incorporate additional terms and expand your results?

b) If the number of results from a search was overwhelming, what might you do to reduce the results to a manageable number?
Task 2

You've decided you need some more subject specific resources for your paper on fracking and earthquakes. GeoRef is a database that has in-depth coverage of geosciences resources. You can get to GeoRef via the GEOS 242 guide (guides.boisestate.edu/GEOS242).

1. In GeoRef, enter the search you used initially in Task 1.
   How many results do you get?

   Are there more or fewer results than in Academic Search Premier?

   Why do you think that is?

2. Using what you learned in Task 1, write down a revised search to expand your results.

3. Enter your search into the GeoRef search box and review your results.
   How many results do you get?

   Are there more or fewer results than step 1 of this task?

   Why do you think that is?

4. In Source type on the left under "Narrow results" look at the Source Types listed. (Click the next to it to expand if needed.)
   Are there any popular media types?

   Write down one source type that you don’t remember seeing in Academic Search Premier:

5. Click on next to the Document type on the left under "Narrow results” and look for Abstract Only. What you do think "Abstract Only" means?
6. Click the “More options” link under Document type.
   - In the resulting “Document type” dialog box, click on the Exclude check box next to “Abstract Only” and then
   - Click the Apply button. This will exclude "Abstract only" records from your search results.
   Why might you want to exclude this document type from your search results?

Select an article to investigate further.

7. Can you get the full-text of the article? How?

8. If you used this article as support in your paper, is APA citation style available using the Cite tool in GeoRef?

Critical Thinking Question
Thinking about your experiences with Academic Search Premier and GeoRef, when might you want to search Academic Search Premier rather than GeoRef? GeoRef rather than Academic Search Premier?

Task 3
In your quest to be thorough for your assignment, you decide you’d like to search an additional database that would have good geosciences coverage. The library has subject guides that can help you find additional databases.

➢ Go to library.boisestate.edu and click on the Guides tab.
➢ Click Geosciences in the alphabetical list.

1. Write down a database other than GeoRef you might want to use for the final paper in this class.

2. Is it a subject specific database or a multidisciplinary database?

Critical Thinking Question
Why might you want to search more than one database when looking for literature?
Task 4

On the Geosciences subject guide, you see that there is a journal titles search. That reminds you that you wanted to see if the library has two articles that were cited in a resource you found earlier. The articles are:


You need some basic information before you can find out if the library has the articles.

1. What is the title of the journal where each article was published?

   Article A:

   Article B:

2. What year was each article published?

   Article A:

   Article B:

Enter the title of the journal in the search box for Journal Titles Search.

3. Can you access the full text of each article online?

   Article A:

   Article B:

Critical Thinking Question

What would you do if the library didn’t have the article you wanted?