



# Searching Google and Databases

Creating and searching keywords



## Expanding your list of possible keywords

Use Google to search for **materials that rot**.

Scan the results page and find alternative words or phrases that you can use as keywords.

Make note of potential keywords. Use them to find different results.



## Changing word order can change results

Use Google to search for

**blue sky.**

Use Google to search for

**sky blue.**

What differences are you noticing?



## Using operators to change search results

Using the + or - sign or “ “ marks can change search results.

Search for **beetle**.



## Using operators to change search results continued

Now search for **beetle +virginia**.

Search for beetle again.

Search for **beetle -insect**.

Note that the + or - sign needs to be right in front of the word, no space!



## Using operators to change search results continued

Quotation marks keep words together for searches.

Search for **materials that rot.**

Search for **“materials that rot”**

How do your results differ?

# Searching Databases



Many of the same strategies used in Google work in databases. For instance, using “ ” to keep words together.

Also, using the words **and**, **not**, or **or** will expand or refine your search.

Search for the following using the database *Science in Context*:

**Fossil fuel**

**Fossil fuel or coal**

**Fossil fuel and coal**

**Fossil fuel not coal**

**Fossil fuel and coal not oil**

Note how the number of *Academic Journals* changes depending on your search term.