Handout #5: Finding Journal Articles

How to connect:
- [www.library.kent.edu]
- Research Databases
  - Research Database by Subject
  - Communication Studies

Use the KSU VPN for access to these databases from off campus.

### Core Communication Research Databases

**ComAbstracts**
- Covers about 50 communication journals
- Can do simple keyword searches in titles and abstracts

**Communication Abstracts**
- Indexes more than 100 journals, including core communication studies titles.

**Communication & Mass Media Complete**
- Provides access to bibliographic references, reviews, recent encyclopedias and handbooks and full-text of journal articles. Depending on the journal, coverage may extend back to the first issue of a title.

**PsycINFO**
- Has some full-text of communication journals, plus lots of related material.

### Related Databases (a selective list)

**Academic Search Complete**
- Covers many subject areas. Watch out for non-scholarly material. Has some full-text of communication journals.

**Business Source Complete**
- Business and organization-related topics, such as superior-subordinate relationships, newcomer assimilation

**Education Research Complete**
- Topics related to education, such as classroom behavior, communication strategies of teachers, persuasive strategies of students

**Google Scholar**
- Combines a popular and free search engine with links to paid-for journal articles.

**Social Sciences Citation Index**
- Very broad coverage of social sciences. Also called "Web of Science." Find out which articles cite other articles.

### Other useful tools

1. **Refworks** - [www.refworks.com/refworks](http://www.refworks.com/refworks)
   - You create an online account, then can keep track of your article citations. Can output a bibliography in APA format.

2. **E-Journal Finder** - [connect from this page: http://www.library.kent.edu/page/10698](http://www.library.kent.edu/page/10698)
   - Use if you have a citation to an article and want to see if it's available online. (You can check KentLINK for articles in print.)
   - Example:

Search by journal title: human communication research
Choosing your search terms

1. Identify the Key Concepts of Your Topic

Pick only the most important, distinct words or concepts to search.

Examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research question / topic:</th>
<th>Key concepts:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Children being exposed to violence on TV</td>
<td>children</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How do people use humor to cope with illness?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In what ways do new communication tools affect how relationships develop?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Combine Keywords Together with Boolean Operators

OR for synonyms: TV OR television
AND for different concepts: television AND children
PUT IT ALL TOGETHER: (TV OR television) AND (children or adolescents or teenagers)

3. Remember Field Searching

Most database records consist of different parts, called fields, many of which are searchable.

Examples:
- author: Berger Charles
- words in article title: uncertainty
- words in article title: employee uncertainty and information-seeking in newly formed expansion organizations
- source title / publication name: journal of heath communication

4. Truncation

Use a truncation symbol to find all words that start with the same root.

Examples: relation* finds relation, relations, relationship, relationships
organizat* finds organization, organizations, organizational