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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.

SocIndex   Sociology topics

Other useful tools

1. Refworks - 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
> 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 <u>print</u>.)
> Example:

> Grimes, T. & Bergen, L. (2004). "Is psychopathology the key to understanding why some children become aggressive when they are exposed to violent television programming?" *Human Communication Research 30*, 153-181.

Search by journal title: human communication research

Searching Techniques

Choosing your search terms

1. Identify the Key Concepts of Your Topic

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

Examples:

Research question / topic:	Key concepts:
Children being exposed to violence on TV	children | TV or television
How do people use humor to cope with illness?	
In what ways do new communication tools affect how relationships develop?	

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