Lesson Plan: Searching the Databases

# DISCUSSION (15 mins)

**Use topic from the Wheel of Names**

1. Consider: What type of information sources relate to this topic?
2. What is peer review? Is it important or required for this assignment or topic?
3. What resources do already I have to find a good database?

# INSTRUCTION (15 mins)

1. **Google Scholar Example**
   * Predictions for Google results
   * Run test search in general Google search
   * What’s useful? What’s not?
   * How do we make this more useful?
     1. [Google Scholar link to MSU Library option](https://www.lib.montana.edu/services/information-access/discover/off-campus-access/google-scholar.html)
2. **CatSearch Example** 
   * Run test search in general CatSearch
   * What’s useful? What’s not?
   * How do we make this more useful?
     1. **Boolean Operators: AND, OR, NOT**
     2. **Filter the Search:**
        + **peer-review**
        + **subjects** \*use the subject filter to help narrow your topic!
        + **format**
        + **date, etc**
     3. Broaden the Search
3. **DEEP DIVE: MSU Library Subject Databases** 
   * 313 [databases](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Database) which include over 100,000 [magazines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magazine), [periodicals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodical_literature), serials and [journals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_journal) and more than 250,000 [e-books](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/E-book).
   * **find library databases by subject:** lib.montana.edu > Find > Articles & Research Databases > [By Subject](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/az.php?_ga=2.112427523.644330583.1645049472-928899997.1645049472)

* **Tips:**
  + Mix and match the dropdown options for selecting a database
  + Use Subject Guides to find best bets for databases and journals. The work may have been done for you!
  + Don’t save the URL to articles; download PDF or save permalink instead
  + If you find a good source, look at the sources they cited to find more
  + Show citation resources in CatSearch & on assignment guide

# **ACTIVITY: Pass the Problem**

# WRAP UP (5 mins)

* Get help & Additional resources on [**MSU Library Research Guide**](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/libraryresearch)
* **Assessment of instruction session** – [online survey](https://montana.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eCJiCWmwFY3DUTI) taken in class

# ADDITIONAL IN-CLASS or HOMEWORK RESOURCES:

* [**MSU Library Research Guide**](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/libraryresearch)
* [**MSU Library online tutorials:**](https://www.lib.montana.edu/services/research-and-instruction/tutorials.html)
* Suggested:
  + - 1. [**Identifying Keywords**](https://www.lib.montana.edu/services/research-and-instruction/tutorials/identifyingkeywords/story.html)
      2. [**CatSearch Basics in less than 60 seconds**](https://montana.techsmithrelay.com/Y0dj)
      3. [Finding Databases by Subject](https://guides.lib.montana.edu/libraryresearch/BasicSearch#s-lg-box-wrapper-33241343)
      4. [**Searching the Databases 101**](https://www.lib.montana.edu/services/research-and-instruction/tutorials/searchingdatabases/story)
      5. [**Understanding Scholarly Research, Part 1**](https://www.lib.montana.edu/services/research-and-instruction/tutorials/understandingscholarlyarticles1/story)
* MSU Library Lesson Plans
  + - [Identifying Keywords - Deconstruct and Reconstruct](https://www.lib.montana.edu/services/research-and-instruction/meta/Salsbury_Identifying_Keywords_Deconstruct_Reconstruct.pdf)
  + MSU Library Activities & Worksheets
    - [Brainstorming Keywords Worksheet](https://montanaedu.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/LRS-FacultyMeetings/EZT7B81mc2BDqfsrSxbxw20BUCaIyKf7IMlU9wr84B_Hiw?e=2nLbrl)
    - [Topic Exploration Worksheet](https://montanaedu.sharepoint.com/:w:/s/LRS-FacultyMeetings/EfrK9xX39cFHpbpCU4Q-4rABvzqTd4g7qWXli8H7IdRWnw?e=uGbYqa)
* [**Credo Information Literacy Tutorials**](https://www.lib.montana.edu/services/research-and-instruction/tutorials.html#credo)
  + - Suggested:
      1. [Research Process and Choosing a Topic](https://vle.credoreference.com/montana-state-university-ilcm/7751/research-process-and-choosing-a-topic-section-module)
      2. [Reference and Searching Techniques](https://vle.credoreference.com/montana-state-university-ilcm/7751/reference-and-searching-techniques-section-module)
      3. [Choosing a Database](https://vle.credoreference.com/montana-state-university-ilcm/7751/choosing-a-database-section-module)
* [**Consortium of Academic & Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI)**](https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/pub-serv/instruction/InstructionShowcase#2021Worrell)
  + - Annual Instruction Showcase Archives
      1. Multiple lesson plans for teaching research
      2. Suggested:
         * [Keyword Development and Searching](http://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/pub-serv/instruction/InstructionShowcase#2014LenaghanWhitehead)
         * A Search Term By Any Other Name Is Just As Correct?: The Importance Of Evolving Language In Keywords And Subject Headings
         * [Flipped Classroom: Exercises for Database Searching-](http://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/pub-serv/instruction/InstructionShowcase#2014MossMcKeen)
         * [Locating Academic Sources](https://www.carli.illinois.edu/products-services/pub-serv/instruction/InstructionShowcase#2013Jagman)

Activity: Pass the Problem

# Part 1: Research Topic

Person #1: Write down your research question or thesis statement.

**Your research question:**



**Pass this sheet to the next person when asked**

# Part 2: Identify Keywords

Person #2: Using the topic above, identify as many related terms/keywords as you can for this topic. Think of synonyms, or other ways of describing the topic.

**Keywords:**



**Pass this sheet to the next person when asked**

# Part 3: Find Sources

Person #3: Use the keywords from part 2 to search CatSearch or another library database(s) to find a peer-reviewed article or other reliable source.

**Peer-reviewed article title, author, and date:**

**Which of the keywords worked best? And in what combination?**