

## **Assignment 3**

### **Presentation/Lesson Plan Outline**

#### Introductory Comments

- Introduce myself
- Presentation plan
  - Melanie Chu and I will be teaching our course
  - All four of us will answer any questions at the end, however, during the course, you'll be students and can ask questions of the two teachers.
- Introduce Group Members; Lesson Plan Concept/Tasks & Responsibilities
  - Francis Howard, Geoffrey Skinner
  - Lesson plan called: Internet Search Engines & Academic Research: Using Advanced Search Features to Achieve Better Results
  - Roles
    - Developing Concept and Lesson Plan: ALL
    - Written report: Francis
    - Web site: Geoffrey
    - Handouts/Instructional aids: Melanie
    - Oral Presentation: Melanie and me
- Setting, Audience, and Need
  - Setting: The Emma Goldman Memorial Library is the central library for Bertrand Russell State University (BRSU) in Winstanley, Oregon
  - Audience & Need: First year college students. These students have used the Web, including search engines to gather information for limited academic purposes, as well as recreational or informational needs. They are familiar with search engines; however, they have used only the simplest search functions, generally the default keyword search option. They do not know that advanced features, such as Boolean operators or phrase searching, can be used to refine searches for better results.

#### Course

##### **Welcome & Introduction**

- Welcome to “Internet Search Engines & Academic Research: Using Advanced Search Features to Achieve Better Results.” Part 1 of a two-part module on Internet Search Engines & Academic Research. You should only be in this class if you've completed the Basic Library Resources Course, which provides an overview of all the material available to you through the library, including electronic resources, such as the Internet and electronic databases, as well as print resources, such as books and journals. This course focuses on using only one of those resources – the Internet.
- Introduce myself & Melanie:
  - Bill Sherwood, Senior Reference Librarian, EGM Library
  - Melanie Chu, Student Assistant, EGM Library
- Scope
  - Today we will present Part 1 of our two-part module on Internet Search Engines & Academic Research. This class will focus on using some Advanced Search Features of Internet Search Engines to achieve better results. It will also include some basic information on how to prepare citations for resources you find online. As a preview, Part 2 of this course will go into more

depth about preparing citations, and will focus on evaluating and selecting the best resources for your academic research.

➤ Goal & Objectives:

- Melanie and I want to make sure you walk out of this class having learned some very specific new knowledge that is directly applicable to your academic work. So, I want to take a moment to outline the goal and objectives of this session.
  - Goal: You will have a clear understanding of how to effectively use Internet search engines for basic academic research.
  - Objectives:
    - Learn to use two Advanced Search Features, Boolean and phrase searching, to refine searches for better results.
    - Understand the concept of Boolean logic and operators
    - Learn that Boolean and phrase searching can be applied to other online resources including databases and the library's OPAC
    - Learn where to locate information on the various methods of citing online resources

➤ Section 1: Google Search Features (Melanie)

- My name is Melanie Chu. I'm a sophomore and I work as a Student Assistant here at the library. I took this class last year and I've used what I learned here almost every day.
- So, I'd like to start by getting a sense of your current use and experience of Internet Search Engines. Questions:
  - Which search engines, if any, have you used?
  - What is your search technique?
  - How many results do you usually get and how many do you look at?
  - Are you satisfied with results and if not, why not?
  - Have you ever used the advanced search page/features of a search engine?
- Today, we hope to improve your experience using Internet Search Engines. For the purpose of demonstrating advanced concepts and techniques, we'll be using [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). It is one of the most popular search engines and it searches over 2 billion pages. Keep in mind that Google is not the only search engine you can use for your academic research and that the concepts and techniques we'll be teaching you can be applied in other search engines, databases available through the library web site, and the library's online catalog.
- I want to demonstrate the power of Google's advanced search features by using examples from the courses we're all taking. For example, right now I'm taking a Western Civ. Course. I need to write a paper on Michelangelo. I want to use the Internet to find information on my subject. So let's talk about some key words and concepts I might use in my search. The first rule in this process is to be as specific as possible when choosing the keywords you'll include in any search. For example, as you might know, Michelangelo was a prominent Italian artist who lived during the renaissance. Since I'm searching for a specific Italian artist, it makes sense to search for Michelangelo rather than Italian artists. So let's break this subject down into it's key words and concepts: Michelangelo, Italian, artist, renaissance.
- I'd like to hear what kind of research projects you are working on. (Lead the class through a similar process as done for previous subject)

- Earlier I mentioned the first rule – be as specific as possible in choosing your search terms. The second rule is to avoid using common words (e.g., the, an, of). These words only slow down your search and don't improve results.
- (Distribute Google screen shots – Pick a topic, and demonstrate Google's basic and advanced search features)
  - Topic: Michelangelo, Italian, artist, renaissance.
  - Simple search (defaults to searching all your keywords). 8,610 results.
  - Advanced search: all – same as simple search.
  - Advanced search: at least one of the words. 1,120,000 results.
  - Advanced search: all the words & without the words: all the words – Michelangelo, artist, Italian; without the words – renaissance. 5,710 results. (Point out the difference between the simple search results (8,610) vs. these results (5,710) – 2,900 fewer results. Renaissance could be a key word, so you might be eliminating important or useful documents, so use this feature judiciously.
  - Exact phrase (Michelangelo Italian artist). 47 results!

#### ➤ Section 2 Boolean Logic (Bill)

- (Distribute Boolean logic handout) Explain Boolean logic and phrase searching using Google's terms & Venn diagrams.
- Explain that these concepts apply to almost any search interface you find for search engines, databases, and a library catalog. They will typically have a basic search (which defaults to one element of Boolean logic), and an advanced search, which allows the user to choose the search features he or she desires to use. Understanding the concept of Boolean logic will help you more skillfully manipulate the advanced search options so that you can improve your search results.

#### ➤ Section 3 Citations (Bill)

- (Distribute Citation handout) You will need to cite or name the resources you choose to use in an assignment.
- It is important to know how to appropriately document resources. There are a few commonly used styles for citing resources. Typically academic disciplines choose a preferred style (refer to handout).
- The basic reason for citing your resources is that others can also find them to use for their own research.
- Today we only have time to point you in the right direction for citing your resources. This subject will be covered in much more detail in Module Two of this course. In addition, we'll also discuss the importance of evaluating the quality of the resources you find on the Internet.

#### ➤ Section 4 Closing (Bill)

- Please check our web site for further information – (show it and explain the address is on the handouts)
- Call or e-mail Melanie or I if you need assistance – (phone numbers & e-mail on handouts & on web site)

- Any final questions?
- Come to module 2 (include date/time/location on website and handouts)
- Thank you & goodbye.