

**EDPY**

903

Jessica Thorlakson

Fall 2013



**UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA**  
**LIBRARIES**

## SESSION OVERVIEW

- ❖ Crafting a research topic
  - ❖ Boolean searching
- ❖ Building a search strategy
  - ❖ Searching for articles
    - ❖ Where to get help?!
    - ❖ Citation Guides

**CRAFTING YOUR RESEARCH  
TOPIC**

1) Write a research statement or question.

Example:

I am interested in research regarding the use of social media for ESL learners in Canada.

## DEFINING YOUR RESEARCH TOPIC

### 2) Identify main concepts

I am interested in research regarding the use of **social media** for **ESL learners in Canada**.

## DEFINING YOUR RESEARCH TOPIC

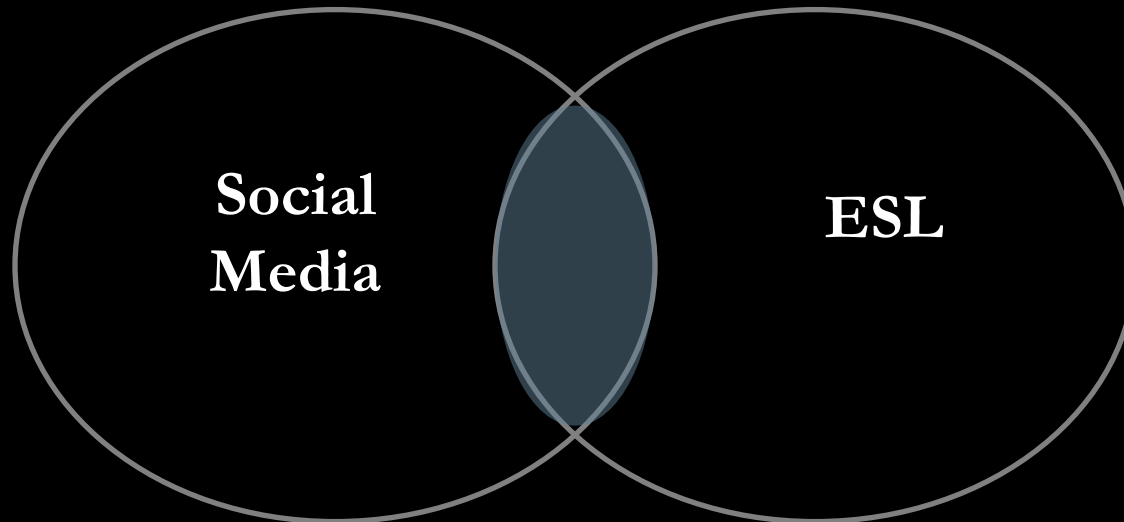
3) Find synonyms or similar terms for each of your concepts

<b>Concept 1</b> Social media	<b>Concept 2</b> ESL	<b>Concept 3</b> Canada
Facebook	English as a Second Language	Canad*
Twitter	English as a Foreign Language	Alberta
Blogs	TESL	BC
FlickR	Teaching English...	British Columbia
Virtual communities	Foreign Language Learn*	...

## BOOLEAN OPERATORS



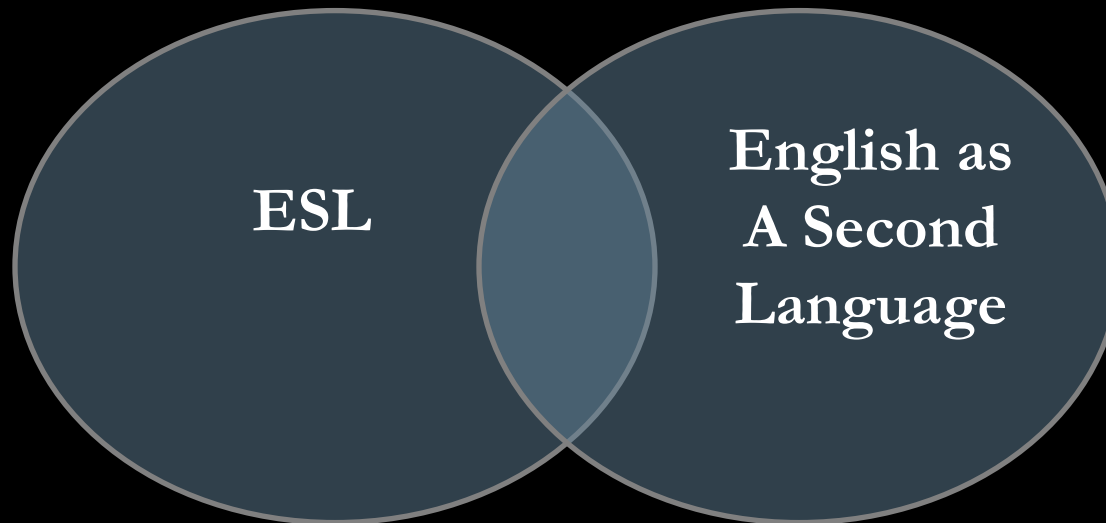
## BOOLEAN OPERATORS – AND



**AND** always gets less results

Use **AND** to combine different concepts

## BOOLEAN OPERATORS – OR



**OR** always gets more results

Use **OR** to combine similar concepts



## SEARCH STRATEGY:

<b>Concept 1</b>		<b>Concept 2</b>		<b>Concept 3</b>
<p>Social media OR Facebook OR Twitter OR Blog* OR Virtual communit*</p>				

# SEARCH STRATEGY

## Concept 1

Social media  
OR  
Facebook  
OR  
Twitter  
OR  
Blog\*  
OR  
Virtual  
communit\*

**AND**

## Concept 2

ESL  
OR  
English as a  
second language  
OR  
English as a  
foreign language  
TESL  
OR  
Teaching English  
as a second  
language

**AND**

## Concept 3

Canad\*  
OR  
Alberta  
OR  
AB  
OR  
BC  
OR  
British Columbia

## SEARCH TIPS

What it's called	How it's used	What it does
Truncation * NEOS catalogue \$	symbol*	symbol, symbols, symbolism, symbolist, symbolists, symbolic...
Wildcard ?	wom?n	wom <i>an</i> or wom <i>en</i>
Phrase searching “ _ ”	“second language acquisition”	finds “second language acquisition” as an exact phrase

## DATABASES TO CONSIDER

### *CBCA Education*

Canadian information in the field of education

### *Language & Linguists Behavior Abstracts*

**LLBA** (1973 to the present) provides access to the world's literature in linguistics and its various subdisciplines

### *PsycInfo*

Covers the international literature in psychology.

### *Eric*

Covers all aspects of education and all topics within the broad discipline

### *Google Scholar*

## IF YOU'RE GETTING TOO MANY RESULTS

- ❖ Look through your results – are there any terms that are used in other contexts, that may be retrieving irrelevant results?
  - ❖ May want to remove some of your 'OR'd' synonyms
    - ❖ Add an extra concept using **AND**
- ❖ If you're getting too few results:
  - ❖ Are you missing any important terms?
  - ❖ Remove one of your main concepts
- ❖ Consider synonyms, alternate spellings and writing out acronyms

**WE'RE HERE TO HELP!**

## EDPY Library Guide

[guides.library.ualberta.ca/edpsychresearch](http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/edpsychresearch)

## Special Education Library Guide

<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/specialedresearch>

## Contact the library

<http://www.library.ualberta.ca/askus/>

## CITATION

APA Guide:

<http://guides.library.ualberta.ca/apa>

APA QuickGudie

[http://www.library.ualberta.ca/uploads/augustana/apa\\_qg\\_6th\\_edition\\_February2010\\_2.pdf](http://www.library.ualberta.ca/uploads/augustana/apa_qg_6th_edition_February2010_2.pdf)