

LIBR 289 e-Portfolio
Fall 2008

Evidence for Competency E

LIBR 244 – Online Searching

Dialog, Nexis and the Internet Exercise

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Exercise 5: Dialog, Nexis, and the Internet

Please capture and save enough information from each search that I can identify the file you were searching, your search strategies, and enough of your output to show what sort of results you were getting—I do not need to see more than 10 items at the maximum and less is fine.

1. Please do a Dialog search on your choice of file(s) to find the best information you can find from the past 2 years of data on the subject of “drinking water purity.” Assume that your client is not a chemist but is an educated consumer interested in water purity of public water systems. Now repeat this search using the Dialog TARGET function.

I picked a set of files from the Bluesheets descriptions: 34, 76, 78, 117, and 245. In DialIndex I looked for keywords. Since I don't have access to 3 of those files the search was limited to files 34 and 245. In 245 (Waternet) there were several good articles pertaining to this theme but the ones I thought would be of most help to the patron dated back to 2001 (last set). Switching to file 34 (Sci Search), results were more satisfying in this file and were also within the requested time range.

2. Compare and contrast the results you got in the two searches above and write up a paragraph of two discussing this.

Using TARGET is a snap! I wish I would have known about this feature earlier. Searching without Boolean terms and in areas where I'm not an expert, this search feature is clearly very useful. It also required no planning and the quality of the results was acceptable. Also the total searching time was a fraction of what the original search was.

Using the regular Boolean searching techniques took longer. First, it required conscious planning regarding search terms to be used and exploring the Thesaurus or major descriptors. Second, I had to try different combinations to arrive to acceptable numbers. Then I had to narrow the results by year. However, the results obtained by using this method were more relevant than the ones using the TARGET function. I would recommend using TARGET when pressed for time, when results don't need to be as precise, or when exploring an unknown subject to gain a feeling for what results can be obtained without having to do deeper research. Otherwise, I would recommend using regular Boolean searches.

For the following searches, use Dialog, Nexis and the Internet for each question. Again show enough of your search that I can see what you did and include at least one item that answers the question. You may not find an answer on each service so know when to stop unproductive searching.

3. When did Seven-Up begin using the phrase “Uncola” in its advertising?

In 1967, Seven-Up introduced the Uncola advertising campaign. People immediately associated it with an alternative to cola drinks and the company experienced increased sales.

Internet: Went straight to the source, Seven-Up’s website. Under History there is a timeline of company events.

Lexis/Nexis: After a few dead ends searching under beverages/soft drinks, I decided to search under News for uncola and then advertising which yielded results but not accurate enough when compared with the data from the company’s website.

Dialog: Did a search through DialIndex first and then searched for keywords under the hits. It was surprisingly not a hard search and I found the information albeit also slightly off my a year.

4. Find information suitable for a person with no medical background on the subject of diabetes insipidus.

Diabetes insipidus is caused by the inability of the kidneys to conserve water, which leads to frequent urination and pronounced thirst. There are 2 main types of DI: central and nephrogenic. The first one is caused by damage to the hypothalamus or pituitary gland as a result of surgery, infection, tumor, or head injury. The latter involves a defect in the parts of the kidneys that reabsorb water back into the bloodstream and it may occur as an inherited disorder usually in male children you receive the abnormal chromosome from their mothers. Treatment may include hormonal therapy, drugs therapy, increased fluid intake, and anti-inflammatory medication. This disease does not usually affect life expectancy and it is not fatal.

Dialog: Searched under DialIndex first and arrived ta the results pretty quickly. However, I felt that the information was too technical and required some in depth understanding of bodily processes and pathology, so I decided to look in the Internet for a more simply yet satisfactory explanation.

Internet: In Google, I typed the keyword ‘diabetes insipidus.’ Several resources were found but I picked the one from Medline Plus as it is a credible resource by the US Library of Medicine.

Lexis/Nexis: This search took a bit longer than the Internet and Dialog ones. I tried using the subject directory under Medicine & Health/Diseases/Diabetes with no luck. A simpler search under the source Healthcare Archive News yielded better results and I found the answer within the first page.

5. Create a question of interest to you and search it on all 3 services.

What are the health benefits of honey?

Honey consumption has been attributed many health benefits. Nature's sweetener is also a natural source of energy. It is known to contain a wide variety of vitamins, mineral and amino acids. It is also effective for soothing sore throats and for treating minor burns or abrasions due to its antimicrobial properties. In latest studies, honey has been proposed as a potential weapon in the fight against cancer and heart diseases since it contains potent anti-oxidants which eradicate free radicals, a by-product of metabolism that are believed to be the cause of many diseases.

Honey contains a wide array of vitamins (B1, B2, C, B6, B5 and B3), essential minerals (calcium, copper, iron, magnesium, manganese, phosphorus, potassium, sodium and zinc), antioxidants and amino acids. Honey is composed of sugars like glucose and fructose and minerals like magnesium, potassium, calcium, sodium chloride, sulphur, iron and phosphate. Because it is composed of sugars such as fructose and glucose it is an effective source of energy.

Polish doctors also said that bee resin helps to cure many diseases such as hemorrhoids, skin problems, gynecological diseases and many other disorders. Some doctors have claimed that cataract patients have recovered completely after been treated with honey. Researchers are also studying honey's effects on cholesterol levels.

Lexis/Nexis: For this search I selected the source Healthcare Archive News and searched for honey. Then I narrowed the results to focus on health benefit! One of the articles retrieved went in detail about the health benefits of honey.

Internet: Found a variety of resources through a Google search and picked www.honey.com sponsored by the National Honey Board.

Dialog: I am sure that there must be an article somewhere within Dialog where the benefits of honey are discussed. Yet I couldn't find it. Every search I did generated far too many results that dealt specifically with medical conditions or experiments that involved honey. So I gave up.