

## **ERAC Cyber Search**

### **Identifying the Task**

Students will be introduced to a “keyword search strategy” that will help them complete a cyber search using the ERAC databases. Students will begin to become familiar with the different quality ERAC databases provided by the district for free to every Abbotsford school.

### **IRP Related Outcomes**

- Create and apply predetermined search criteria, to locate, and retrieve information.
- Demonstrate competence for using basic information technology tools (databases) for educational/ informational purposes.
- Solve problems using information technology tools and resources (databases).

### **The Process**

This assignment involves introducing students to a method for creating better keyword searches and then having them use that method to complete a “cyber search”.

This assignment could be introduced using the following method:

- Teacher and students engage in a brief discussion around “information and the Internet”.
- Teacher introduces the magnitude of information on the Internet by providing the result of a simple “Google search” (for example, a simple search on the keyword “China” reveals 700,000,000 search results). If the teacher has access to the Internet and a projector some other examples could be generated by the students and projected for them to see.
- Teacher can introduce the importance of performing accurate and well-planned keyword searches on topics using handout #1 “keyword search

strategy” (attached at the end). An example can be generated in class on how to go about generating search strategy statements and filling out the various diagrams on the sheet.

-Teacher can then hand out the Cyber Search questions in handout #2 (attached at the end). Students need to be instructed that this is not a race, and that they must create a “keyword search strategy” sheet for 1 of the cyber search questions. After that it can be used as a general guideline for how they should go about creating keyword searches from the cyber search questions. Note: The cyber search questions below are only supposed to serve as a guideline for what can be created. Teacher can/should tailor questions to suit the topic of their needs. The questions should be difficult enough that students have to do some thinking/word substitution when they search.

-Teacher should briefly introduce the various ERAC databases that the students will be using for their activity. They will need to be reminded that they must use the ERAC databases. Their usefulness can be stressed, and the fact that the district has paid for them and for their accessibility at home or school etc. (see details below under “Resources”).

-The teacher can introduce the idea of “paid for information” (i.e., databases) and their usefulness in providing authoritative information and filtering out a lot of garbage from the Internet—another reason to use the databases.

-At this point students would go to the library where they would use the library computers to obtain access to the ERAC databases. The librarian and teacher can circulate and help students generate keyword searches for the cyber questions. (Note: cyber questions can be customized, the attached sheet is one example).

## **Resources**

The resources for this assignment are the ERAC databases available to Abbotsford Schools. Note: Addresses will vary depending on school. See your info-tech person on how to access them if the addresses below do not work.

### **CPI.Q (Canadian Periodicals)**

(<http://find.galegroup.com/itx/start.do?prodId=CPI&userGroupName=>)

Use this database to find articles from a comprehensive list of Canadian and international journals, magazines, selected sections of the Globe and Mail, Canadian biographies, and other reference content from Thomson Gale, all with a Canadian focus.

### **Student Resource Center – Gold**

(<http://find.galegroup.com/srcx/start.do?prodId=SRC-1&userGroupName=>)

Student Resource Center – Gold offers easy access to award-winning content based on national curriculum standards. Covering all core curriculum areas, including history, literature, science, social studies, and more, SRC – Gold provides a premium selection of reference material, more than 1,100 full-text periodicals and newspapers, primary sources, creative works, and multimedia, including hours of video and audio clips and podcasts.

### **Gale Virtual Reference Library**

(<http://find.galegroup.com/gvrl/start.do?prodId=GVRL&userGroupName=>)

Gale Virtual Reference Library is a database of encyclopedias and specialized reference sources for multidisciplinary research. These reference materials once were accessible only in the library, but now you can access them online from the library or remotely 24/7. Because each library creates its own eBook collection, the content

you see may vary if you use the database at different libraries (your school, your public library, or your office).

## **WEB FEET**

(<http://www.webfeetguides.com/wfonline/eracd34.html>)

WEB FEET is a comprehensive subject guide to the best free resources available on the Internet.

## **Biography Resource Center**

(<http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC?locID=>)

This database integrates award-winning biographies from respected Gale Group sources with related full-text articles from hundreds of periodicals, as well as tens of thousands of images and links to handpicked web sites.

For more information on ERAC visit this site:

<http://www.yalesecondarylibrary.com/yaledatabaseinformation.html>



## Sample ERAC Cyber Search Questions

1. Find a newspaper article on a radioactive related disaster than happened in the last thirty years. (Use the C.P.I database)

URL:

2. Find a person whose last name is Marx, who was employed as a writer and born in the year 1927. (Use the Biography Resource Center database).

URL:

3. Find a multimedia resource on Irish Immigration (Use the Student Resource Center Gold database).

URL:

4. Find an article on additives and preservatives that has an illustration from a medical journal that has a picture of fast food (such as Twinkies etc.). (Use the Gale Virtual Reference database).

URL:

5. Use the “subject list” categories (under the Webfeet database) to navigate to the following website and describe what subdirectories you went through to find the site:

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African timelines [web site] Show details

URL:

[http://web.cocc.edu/cagatucci/classes/hum211/timelines/htimelin  
etoc.htm](http://web.cocc.edu/cagatucci/classes/hum211/timelines/htimelin<br/>etoc.htm)

## **Post Activity**

**Note:** The following “post-activity” could involve the creation of a writing summation activity, or a guided small group discussion on the process that took place above. The sample could serve as an informal evaluative activity, or it could be more formally evaluated using a rubric (one can be generated/customized to suit individual needs from (<http://rubistar.4teachers.org/index.php>))

**Example:** Write a paragraph about the process of searching for information. Was the “keyword search strategy” activity useful in providing you with a method of narrowing search questions into useful “keywords”? Why/why not? Compare the information from ERAC to regular web searches, was there a difference? Name three important things that you learned about the ERAC databases. Explain.

## **URL Answers:**

1. Answers may vary:

[http://find.galegroup.com/itx/retrieve.do?subjectParam=Locale%252528en%25252C%25252C%252529%25253AFQE%25253D%252528su%25252CNone%25252C17%252529Nuclear%252BAccidents%252524%257E%2529\\_1&contentSet=IAC- Documents&sort=DateDescend&tabID=T004&sgCurrentPosition=0 &subjectAction=VIEW\\_TOPIC\\_TREE&prodId=CPI&searchId=R1&currentPosition=1&userGroupName=34yass&resultListType=RESULT\\_LIST&sgHitCountType=None&qrySerId=Locale%28en%2C%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28su%2CNone%2C19%29%22Nuclear+Accidents%22%24&inPS=true&searchType=SubjectGuideForm&displaySubject=&docId=CJ161369999&docType=IAC](http://find.galegroup.com/itx/retrieve.do?subjectParam=Locale%252528en%25252C%25252C%252529%25253AFQE%25253D%252528su%25252CNone%25252C17%252529Nuclear%252BAccidents%252524%257E%2529_1&contentSet=IAC- Documents&sort=DateDescend&tabID=T004&sgCurrentPosition=0 &subjectAction=VIEW_TOPIC_TREE&prodId=CPI&searchId=R1&currentPosition=1&userGroupName=34yass&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&sgHitCountType=None&qrySerId=Locale%28en%2C%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28su%2CNone%2C19%29%22Nuclear+Accidents%22%24&inPS=true&searchType=SubjectGuideForm&displaySubject=&docId=CJ161369999&docType=IAC)

2. Miriam, Marx, Allen

<http://galenet.galegroup.com/servlet/BioRC?vrsn=149&OP=contains&BO=is&locID=34yass&srchtp=person&ca=1&DO=is&AI=U14359027&NA=marx+&ste=4&tbst=prp&n=10&DA=A.D.&BA=A.D.&OC=writer>

3. Answers may vary:

[http://find.galegroup.com/srcx/retrieve.do?subjectParam=Locale%2528en%252C%252C%2529%253AFQE%253D%2528su%252CNone%252C17%2529irish%2Bimmigration%2524&contentSet=GSRC&sort=Relevance&tabID=T005&sgCurrentPosition=0&subjectAction=DISPLAY\\_SUBJECTS&prodId=SRC-1&searchId=R1&currentPosition=1&userGroupName=34yass&resultListType=RESULT\\_LIST&sgHitCountType=None&qrySerId=Locale%28en%2C%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28SU%2CNone%2C17%29irish+immigration%24&inPS=true&searchType=BasicSearchForm&displaySubject=&docId=EJ2210017126&docType=GSRC](http://find.galegroup.com/srcx/retrieve.do?subjectParam=Locale%2528en%252C%252C%2529%253AFQE%253D%2528su%252CNone%252C17%2529irish%2Bimmigration%2524&contentSet=GSRC&sort=Relevance&tabID=T005&sgCurrentPosition=0&subjectAction=DISPLAY_SUBJECTS&prodId=SRC-1&searchId=R1&currentPosition=1&userGroupName=34yass&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&sgHitCountType=None&qrySerId=Locale%28en%2C%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28SU%2CNone%2C17%29irish+immigration%24&inPS=true&searchType=BasicSearchForm&displaySubject=&docId=EJ2210017126&docType=GSRC)

4. Answers may vary:

[http://find.galegroup.com/gvrl/retrieve.do?contentSet=EBKS&resultListType=RESULT\\_LIST&qrySerId=Locale%28en%2C%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28KE%2CNone%2C8%29twinkies%24&sgHitCountType=None&inPS=true&sort=Relevance&searchType=BasicSearchForm&tabID=T001&prodId=GVRL&searchId=R1&currentPosition=1&userGroupName=34yass&docId=CX3436200012&docType=EBKS&contentSet=EBKS](http://find.galegroup.com/gvrl/retrieve.do?contentSet=EBKS&resultListType=RESULT_LIST&qrySerId=Locale%28en%2C%2C%29%3AFQE%3D%28KE%2CNone%2C8%29twinkies%24&sgHitCountType=None&inPS=true&sort=Relevance&searchType=BasicSearchForm&tabID=T001&prodId=GVRL&searchId=R1&currentPosition=1&userGroupName=34yass&docId=CX3436200012&docType=EBKS&contentSet=EBKS)

5. History&Geography + Africa Ancient

