What happens when you graduate?
You lose access to databases unless you’re on campus, so take advantage of them now. You will still have access to the library catalog and the libguide for this class http://csueastbay.libguides.com/english/tesol

Search goal: To gather materials relevant to the topic being searched and keep away the “noise”, i.e., materials that don’t belong. The more successful you are at your search strategies, the more effective your results. Less is often best.

Search tip: Use terms rather than full sentences to avoid searches on less relevant words.

Web search engines: the most common web search engine is Google, but there are other search engines and multiple Google search engines. A list of search engines is available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_search_engines. The most popular search engine is Google, the second most popular is Baidu (see July 3, 2014 article at http://www.digitaltrends.com/web/google-baidu-are-the-worlds-most-popular-search-engines/)

Examples of Google search engines include:
Google, Google Books, Google Scholar, Google Maps, Google Images

A couple of basic facts about searching:
- Computers give you exactly what you ask for. The question is do you know what you’re asking for?
- The default Boolean operator is AND
Keep these facts in mind as you try some of the following techniques:

Quotation marks or Exactly as is
- critical language awareness vs. “critical language awareness”
- critical language awareness retrieves results for critical and language and awareness
- “critical language awareness” retrieves results for critical language awareness, where all the words are forced to be next to each other
- Plus signs act in the same way:
  +critical+language+awareness
- Note the plus sign before each word and no spaces.

Stop words
- There is a whole list of words that many search engines ignore. Examples include:
  a, an, are, as, at, by, from, how, on, or, that, the, this, was, what, when, where, who.
- You’ll find a full list of stop words at http://www.gobloggingtips.com/wp-
Computer algorithms are more sophisticated than they used to be, so when stop words change the meaning of the query, they are not filtered out. The decisions about that are based on language patterns.

Boolean operator: OR
You’ll notice that one of the stop words is or, but you can still use or if you capitalize it. You probably won’t want to use the word very often, but there are times when it can be useful. For example, if I enter a search like this

Oakland Raiders 2014 2015 2016

I’ll get only those results that include all three years because the default operator AND is supplied by the system. If I enter

Oakland Raiders 2014 or 2015 or 2016

the system will provide the same results as the first search because it will eliminate or as a stop word and supply AND as the default Boolean operator

If I capitalize OR, however, the system is programmed to know that the two letters are capitalized and will give me a larger set of results that includes 2014 only, 2015 only, or 2016 only, or any combination of these three dates.

Another example from TESOL might be

ESL OR EFL L1 OR L2

Boolean operator: NOT [use a hyphen sign (-)]
If you insert a hyphen sign (with no spaces) before the word you don’t want, you can eliminate results. For example, the following searches yield different results

second language acquisition
-second language acquisition
second language –acquisition

Wildcard
If you use an asterisk (*), you are asking the system to supply any character that appears in that spot. You can use an asterisk after the root of a word or a word in a phrase. In the case of phrases, it is useful to combine the use of an asterisk with the use of quotations to clarify just where you want the wildcard. Examples include

hypothes* which gives you hypothesis, hypotheses, hypothesize, etc.
“* of language acquisition” which gives you a whole host of options: language acquisition, theories of language acquisition, stages of language acquisition, process of language acquisition

**Search in Site**

This limits your search by geography, by web site, by newspaper, by whatever limit you introduce. Using quotation marks generally helps in this situation, too. To do this, you type in your search term or terms and you add your limiter, which could be a URL or a suffix or something else. Examples include:

- “teaching reading” www.teachingenglish.org.uk
- “teaching reading” site:.gov
- “teaching reading” site:.fr

If you don’t know the codes for Internet top-level domains, you can check the list at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Internet_top-level_domains)

If you lose this sheet, you will find it at [http://csueastbay.libguides.com/english](http://csueastbay.libguides.com/english)

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