Basics: Science & Engineering
Keyword Searching

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• Search relevant databases
• Build a search strategy using keywords & controlled vocabulary; not phrases
• Think of synonyms to first broaden then focus your search
• Use Boolean operators AND, OR, NOT
Using Boolean Operators to Combine Concepts

- **OR**
  - I want articles that contain either concept. I don’t care which concept.

- **AND**
  - I want only articles that contain both concepts.

- **NOT (use sparingly)**
  - I want to disregard any articles that contain a concept.
• Look at promising citations and see how they were indexed
• Focus the search by age group, humans or animals, or publication type, etc.
Found a Good Article?

- Follow the related articles link
- Look at who the article authors cited
- Then look at who cited this article