Student Use of Keywords and Limiters in Web-scale Discovery Searching

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Research Questions

1. Does explicit instruction influence students’ likelihood of using RVOneSearch limiters?

1. How effectively do students use keywords in RVOneSearch after receiving instruction on keywording?
Data collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Search ID</th>
<th>Search Terms</th>
<th>Search Options</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S5</td>
<td>obesity and fast food and children schools</td>
<td>Limiters - Full Text; Peer Reviewed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S4</td>
<td>obesity and fast food and children</td>
<td>Expanders - Also search within the full text of the articles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S3</td>
<td>obesity and fast food</td>
<td>Search modes - Find all my search terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S2</td>
<td>obesity</td>
<td>Limiters - Full Text; Peer Reviewed</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Expanders - Also search within the full text of the articles</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
What we analyzed

- Use of Ebsco provided limiters
- Student keyword abilities
Limited to Peer-Reviewed

48%
Limited by Date

28%
Used Advanced Search (Boolean)

15%
Narrowed Search by Subject Heading

12%
Limited by Language or Geography

3%
Does explicit instruction influence students’ likelihood of using RVOneSearch limiters?

Yes!

Peer Reviewed & Date Limiter
Misuse of quotes

For example...

“student debt” and “solution”
“getting rid”
“is college for everyone”
“technology and society”
Misuse of phrases

For example...

- Body image and different cultural women
- History in jobs
- Effects of television on attention
Spelling errors

For example...

beauty and pre pressure
America dream
cooperate racism
Poor keyword choices

1 = all good keywords    5 = several poor keywords

Mean: 1.96    Mode: 1

For example...

picky eaters and children

television and dumb and reality
Lack of variance in keywords

1 = good variance  5 = no variance

Mean: 3.5  Mode: 3

For example...

tv and intelligence
television and intelligence
television and learning (2x)
television
television and education (2x) - over 567,000 results
Demonstrated search improvement

1 = Good search from start improvement
2 = Significant
3 = Slight improvement
4 = No improvement

Mean: 3.22  Mode: 3.5 (slight to none)
For example...

concussions in children playing football
children and concussions with football
children and football related concussions
youth football concussions
(possibly had a librarian’s help with last search)
How effectively do students use keywords in RVOneSearch after receiving instruction on keywording?

Individual keywords may be good but general search strategies are not.
Limitations

Objective transaction analysis

Small pool from two librarians’ instruction sessions; librarians assisted during research

Does not consider student satisfaction with results