

## Searching Strategies

[http://www.pcc.edu/library/ims/search\\_strategy.html](http://www.pcc.edu/library/ims/search_strategy.html)

### 1. Define the Search Question. [Cal Poly tutorial](#)

<http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/infocomp/modules/index.html>

- Topic as a question
- Identify Concepts/Synonyms
- Narrow or Broaden Topic

### 2. Search Strategies. Review the "[Features Chart](#)" at searchengines.com.

<http://searchengineshowdown.com/features/>

- "Drunk Driving"
- Drink and Driving
- intitle:"drunk driving"
- Drunk -driving (i commonly use this to filter out k12 material. For example "biology lesson plans" -k12, -k-12)
- site:edu

### 3. Generic word strategies

- archive, database, digital, library, graphic
  - Examples - "drunk driving" database, biology "digital archive", "drunk driving" library
- realmedia, quicktime, flash (multimedia)
  - Examples - "drunk driving" realmedia, "drunk driving" flash
- Please go [here](#) to find some hints and terms for searching for multimedia
- Ctrl + F brings up a dialog box that allows you to find the words in the document.

### 4. Search engines - [Recommended Search Tools](#)

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/Help/search.html>

- Google - Excellent general purpose search tool
- [Search Engine Watch](http://www.searchenginewatch.com): <http://www.searchenginewatch.com>
- Vivisimo - Good MetaSearch engine (searches multiple search engines at the same time). Lots of hits, not as focused. Use at beginning of search or when you aren't finding anything.

### 5. TILT: Try the [Information Literacy Tutorial](#)

**6. Online website evaluation [tutorial](#):**

<http://fido.pcc.edu/tilt/module3/sitevision.htm>

**7. Images:** [See guide](#) at <http://spot.pcc.edu/it/images.html>

**8. [Learning Objects & Simulations](#):**

<http://www.pcc.edu/library/ims/learningobjects/>

**9. [Persistent Links](#),** from your web page to a database article

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[Searching for Discipline Specific Materials: Additional Resources](#)

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*sjsmith, rev. gkaminsk, 3/7/06*