Searching Strategies
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

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
- 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


9. Persistent Links, from your web page to a database article

Searching for Discipline Specific Materials: Additional Resources

sjsmith, rev. gkaminsk, 3/7/06