

Tip #31 AND OR NOT searching

Need a laugh? Here's how NOT to teach AND OR NOT searching! This is from a website that provides exercises for info literacy instruction. Each link is annotated, such as this one:

10. ["Remember the Gin and Tonic!" : Using Alcohol to Teach Boolean Searching](#) - A lesson plan that uses alcohol examples and drink mixing to teach Boolean searching skills. Not appropriate for school aged students and should be used with caution with college students.

The off-putting term "Boolean" is fortunately not being used much anymore.* This is due to the inconsistency of terminologies and methods that web search engines provide for Boolean or pseudo-Boolean searches.

Nonetheless, students should know to use AND, OR, NOT to limit their searches.

Hint: always use the Advanced Search option.

Here's some other ways to teach AND OR NOT searching:

"Buttons and Bows" at <http://libguides.library.ohiou.edu/content.php?pid=66044&sid=520088>

Teaching with tattooing imagery:

<http://www.thegateway.org/browse/dcrecord.2010-01-17.3847803302/>

An online game in which objects are moved <http://www.boolify.org/>

A word-for-word lesson plan: probably best used to review the concepts so you can teach less formally <http://www.kn.pacbell.com/wired/21stcent/lbool.html>

*For a discussion of the decline of "Boolean," see p. 121 of this Google Books result:

http://books.google.com/books?id=EPP5DiozFaQC&pg=PA121&lpg=PA121&dq=teach+boolean&source=bl&ots=cKOkSUJv8Y&sig=Nu4f8yN0v-ITb4oNTpyoNB8TjA&hl=en&ei=IFntS4DSBML88AbDp7H-Cg&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=10&ved=0CEgQ6AEwCQ#v=onepage&q=teach%20boolean&f=false