## *(6) RESEARCH SKILLS EXERCISE - keyword or descriptor?* 🛠

**keywords**:
"A significant word or phrase in the title, subject headings (descriptors), contents note, abstract, or text of a record in an online catalog or bibliographic database that can be used as a search term in a free-text search to retrieve all the records containing it. […]
Most online catalogs and bibliographic databases include an option that allows the user to type words that describe the research topic (in any order) and retrieve records containing the search terms in the data fields the system is designed to search whenever the keywords option is selected. One disadvantage of a keywords search is that it does not take into account the meaning of the words used as input, so if a term has more than one meaning, irrelevant records (false drops) may be retrieved."
Reitz, Joan M. "keyword(s)". *ODLIS — Online Dictionary for Library and Information Science*. 2004-7.
http://lu.com/odlis/odlis_k.cfm (11 April 2008)

<u>Why choose to do a keyword search?</u> If you search for something very specific, a concept not yet established in the field or something unusual, there may not be a subject term or none precise enough.

**descriptors**: controlled vocabulary terms, standardized terms, subject terms - describe contents. There is nor coordination across databases, however.

If descriptors are allocated in a database according to a hierarchical system, the option to search for **broader, narrower and related terms** may help to retrieve relevant results. (Use the thesaurus - if available - to find these terms.)

<u>Why choose to do a subject term search?</u> You can make sure that the results your search retrieves are relevant and avoid missing important literature because your keyword search has not covered the subject fully

<u>How do a subject term search</u>? Find descriptor with help of index list or thesaurus.

### (6.1.) Dickinson, Emily

❑ keyword ❑ descriptor

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| | |
|---|---|
| **Title:** | **The American Psychosis**     **Find More Like This** |
| **Author(s):** | Bromwich, David |
| **Source:** | Raritan: A Quarterly Review (Raritan) 2002 Spring; 21 (4): 33-63. [Journal Detail] |
| **Peer Reviewed:** | No |
| **ISSN:** | 0275-1607 |
| **General Subject Areas:** | *Subject Literature:* American literature; *Period:* 1800-1899; *Primary Subject Author:* Emerson, Ralph Waldo (1803-1882); *Primary Subject Work:* 'Self-Reliance'; *Genre:* prose; |
| **Subject Terms:** | treatment of consciousness; idealism; the self; relationship to psychosis; compared to Dickinson, Emily (1830-1886); Hawthorne, Nathaniel (1804-1864): 'Young Goodman Brown' |
| **Document Information:** | *Publication Type:* journal article *Language of Publication:* English *Update Code:* 200201 *Sequence Numbers:* 2002-1-14495 |
| **Accession Number:** | 2002531629 |
| **Persistent link to this record:** | http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mzh&AN=2002531629&site=ehost-live |
| **Database:** | MLA International Bibliography |
| **Full Text Database:** | Humanities International Complete |
| **View Links:** | UBW S·F·X |

## (6.2.) "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" (novel)

❏ keyword ❏ descriptor

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**Author:** Strong, Jeremy

**Title:** "Tess," "Jude," and the Problem of Adapting Hardy

**Reference:** *Literature/Film Quarterly* Go to Journal Record 34:3 (2006) Go to Journal Issue p. 195-203 Search articles in this journal

**Abstract:** Strong discusses Thomas Hardy's two final novels, "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" and "Jude the Obscure," as well as movie adaptations of both - "Tess," directed by Roman Polanski (1979), and "Jude," directed by Michael Winterbottom (1996). He examines changes made in the adaptations from book to screen in order to show which of several possible interpretations the filmmakers favored.

**Document type:** Research and Analysis
**Special features:** Photographs, References
**Broad subject:** Film-Productions; Film-International-Europe; Performing Arts and Other Disciplines

**Narrow subject:** Novels; Feature films; Film directors; Novelists; Adaptations; European cinema; British cinema; Dramas; Interpretations; Comparative literature
Name as Subject: Hardy, Thomas; Polanski, Roman; Winterbottom, Michael
Work as Subject: Tess, Roman Polanski (1979, Film); Jude, Michael Winterbottom (1996, Film)

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## (6.3.) gothic fiction

❏ keyword ❏ descriptor

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ABELL
**Author:** Gagnier, Nancy.
**Title:** The authentic Dracula: Bram Stoker's hold on vampiric genres.
**Publication Details:** *In* (pp. 293-304) Goodlad, Lauren M. E.; Bibby, Michael (eds). *Goth: undead subculture*. Durham, NC; London: Duke UP, 2007. pp. x, 442. [2007:179618].

**Publication Year:** 2007
**ISBN(s):** 9780822339083; 9780822339212
**Subject:** English Literature: Nineteenth Century: Authors: Stoker, Bram
English Literature: Twentieth Century: Fiction
English Literature: Twentieth Century: Cinema: General
**Reference Number:** 2007:179623
**Additional Search Terms:** Dracula
Vampires
■ Gothic Fiction
Gothic Horror Films
Influence

### (6.4.) Middleton

❏ keyword ❏ descriptor



masque during which the play's miscreants are killed and its corrupt society collapses. The masque's allusion to Ben Jonson's "Hymenaei" is discussed, as well as its possible recollection of Florentine entertainments, including those staged in 1586 for the wedding of Cesare d'Este with Virginia de'Medici. The play is based on fact, centering on the seduction of Bianca Cappello and her marriage with the Grand Duke Francesco de'Medici. Middleton attempts to provide an "authentic" Florentine setting for his play including recalling the celebrated series of Medici wedding entertainments and touching on the fascination of an early 17th-century elite London society with Florentine culture.

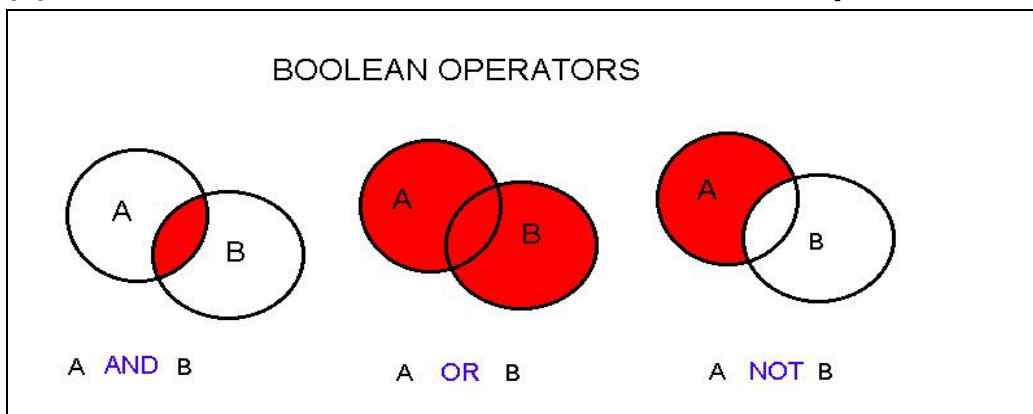| | |
|---|---|
| **Document type:** | Research and Analysis |
| **Special features:** | References |
| **Broad subject:** | Dance-International-Europe; Theater-International-Europe; Performing Arts History |
| **Narrow subject:** | English drama; Playwrights; Intertextuality; Masques; History; Sociocultural influences; Setting; Popularity |
| Name as Subject: | Middleton, Thomas; Jonson, Ben; d'Este, Cesare; de'Medici, Virginia; Cappello, Bianca; de'Medici, Francesco |
| Location: | Florence, Italy; London, England |
| Work as Subject: | Women Beware Women, Thomas Middleton (1657, Drama); Hymenæi, Ben Jonson (1606, Drama) |
| **Publisher:** | Edinburgh University Press |

**(6.5.)** Using the **thesaurus function/index function** of the **MLA,** find **descriptors** relevant to your own topic.

## (7) RESEARCH SKILLS EXERCISE - stigmatised or stigmatized?

You are interested in language forms which are stigmatised - or is it stigmatized???

Do a **keyword search** in the LLBA that retrieves relevant results for both spelling variants and be ready to discuss your search strategy.

## (8) RESEARCH SKILLS EXERCISE - Boolean Operators:

**(8.1.)** Search for the term *alterity* in the MLA

**Increase** the number of results by using a Boolean operator and by using the term *difference*.  ❑ AND ❑ OR ❑ NOT

**Narrow down your results** by using a Boolean operator and exclude results which contain the phrase *structuralism*.  ❑ AND ❑ OR ❑ NOT

**Make your search more specific** to results that connect *alterity* to *otherness* by using a Boolean operator. ❑ AND ❑ OR ❑ NOT

**(8.2.)** Check the MLA thesaurus for the descriptor used for the concept of *alterity* ; do a second search for the descriptor *race*. **Combine the two searches** using the **history function** and a **Boolean operator** to find titles on *race* as well as on *alterity*. Refine the search so that you only have journal articles as results.

## (9) RESEARCH SKILLS EXERCISE - Wildcards/Truncation

Do a **keyword search** using **truncation** and **Boolean operators** in the MLA and in the reference section of LION that retrieves relevant results to cover **all** terms:

| theatre | play |
|---|---|
| theatres | plays |
| theater | performance |
| theaters | performative |
| theatricality | performativity |
| theatrical | |

| Database | Wildcard | | Truncation | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| MLA | ? | 1 character<br>*ne?t*<br>=<br>*nest*<br>*next* | * | *net\**<br>=<br>*net, nets, network,*<br>…<br>words with variant endings, any number of characters |
| LION (Reference) | ? | 0 or 1 character<br>*ne?t*<br>=<br>*net*<br>*nest*<br>*next* | * | *net\**<br>=<br>*net, nets, network,*<br>…<br>words with variant endings, any number of characters |

## (10) RESEARCH SKILLS EXERCISE - Nesting

Compare your results for

- o  **Brontë AND Emily OR Charlotte OR Anne**
- o  **Brontë AND ( Emily OR Charlotte OR Anne )**
- o  **( Brontë AND Emily ) OR Charlotte OR Anne**