Information Literacy – Day 1 Name

Step 1- Define the research problem. Question?

* Is it a simple question?
* Is it a fact-finding mission?
* Is the research question complex with a series of questions or relationships I need to explore.

Step 2- Know what kind of information you need to explore to answer the research question. Find the best source.

* Am I looking for text, video or pictures or a combination?
* Do I need biographical information?
* Is the information I need historic or current?
* Do I need expert or opinion?

Step 3- Select the right search tools.

* Entire book dedicated to the subject?
* Subject specific database?
* Primary or secondary source?
* Regular of scholarly search engine?

Boolean Operators and Search Modifiers

Boolean- CAPITALIZE

* AND or (+) sign - narrows search  
   ex.- birds+eagles
* NOT or (-) sign- do not include (Google-use (-))  
   ex. Eagles-football
* OR- searching for both terms together  
   ex. Eagles or hawks
* (“ ”) marks- includes every word in search

ex. “red-tailed hawk Georgia”

* (~)- similar words

ex. ~mobile phone

* define: - defines a word or phrase

ex. define: plethora

* site: - searches only particular types of websites

ex. site: global warming site:edu

Put it to Work

1. Information about penguins in South Africa.
2. Walking tours in San Francisco
3. Information on Orlando, but not information on hotels.
4. Information on cars and trucks, but not Ford
5. Your choice

\*\* Try several different combinations of operators and modifiers.