Sample Theme for Demonstrating the Databases: “... The Relationship Between Student Participation in Musical Activities and Scholastic Performance.....”

Things to Know; Some of Which Might Seem Arcane!:

- Know the role of Database Vendors such as EbscoHost, Proquest, Thomson-Reuter among others. Our library has maybe 300+ databases that are produced by vendors such as those shown above...
- Know how that the items in these databases are essentially organized with regards to the “field structure,” “subject descriptors or subject headings” and abstracts). Many of our databases will provide you with the actual article...
- What does it mean when we “KEYWORD” search...
- How do we search using “subject headings” and how does a database THESAURUS work [in hardcopy or online]?

The Databases We’ll Deal With Tonight:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Database Name</th>
<th>Vendor(s) Who Produce Database For USD</th>
<th>“Quick-and-Dirty” Snippet of Database...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ERIC</td>
<td>EbscoHost</td>
<td>Put out by the Federal Government's Department of Education. Indexes-abstracts both journal articles and what are known as ERIC documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Research Complete</td>
<td>EbscoHost</td>
<td>Indexes/abstracts articles from journals that aren't included in ERIC database. Also makes a lot of articles available online</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PsychInfo Database</td>
<td>EbscoHost</td>
<td>Database of the American Psychological Association (APA) of journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SocIndex with Full Text</td>
<td>EbscoHost</td>
<td>Database of journal articles, book chapters, dissertations, etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Web of Science</td>
<td>Thomson Reuters</td>
<td>Database that indexes and abstracts articles from the top-tier journals in any field.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Search Premier</td>
<td>EbscoHost</td>
<td>Multidisciplinary database that might lead to articles not found in databases mentioned above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation Abstracts</td>
<td>Proquest</td>
<td>- over -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- over -
Importance of “mapping out” your topic BEFORE SITTING DOWN AT THE COMPUTER and coming up with as many terms that you possibly can for your topic:

1. Again, with a topic of student participation in music and scholastic performance

2. A quick-and-dirty list of search terms that might be applicable in this circumstance:

   - music
   - music activities
   - musical activities
   - marching band
   - orchestra
   - choir
   - chorus
   - choral
   - academic achievement
   - academic ability
   - academic aptitude
   - grades
   - grade point average
   - grade predictability
   - test scores
   - standardized tests
   - college board examinations

Other Things to Know:

1. TRUNCATION will be very important... Does your database use a *, +, ?, ! or # sign? How do you find this out?????

2. The USD Libraries must have in the neighborhood of 300 databases that make more than 10,000 journals available to you. How do you find out which database makes a particular journal available online?

3. There are more journals that we do not have available that what we do have available in hardcopy or electronic format. Or, perhaps you live quite a ways from USD-Vermillion. What can be done to get that material out to you so you don’t have to trek to Vermillion? We have a system called ILLIAD. How does ILLIAD work?

Points about Peer-Reviewed Journals (as per handout produced by Milliken University):

1. Involves the publication of academic research and scholarship by academic scholars in a particular field derived from original research. Academic research articles are done to disseminate research findings to a particular community (e.g. university finance professors). The material typically appears in a specific written format with enough information to enable the findings to be replicated and evaluated. Sources, in scholarly journals, are always cited.

2. Lengthy Articles. Laced with Methodology techniques. Generally Published Quarterly.

3. Almost Never Include Photos. Graphics Tend to be Composed of Charts to Illustrate Article Contents.

4. To Inform, Report, and Make Original Research Available to a Scholarly Community.