

## Chapter Three: Finding Your Pot of Gold



**Objective:** In this chapter you will learn to...

Form the appropriate search command to generate a list of possible web sites.

The Internet contains an incredibly large number of web sites. Now that you have gone through the sections on analyzing your research topic and understanding search logic, it is time for you to put the two together. In order to find the information you need, you need to:

Identify *keywords* and *synonyms*

Analyze your research topic. The purpose of thinking about your topic before you start searching on the Internet is to determine what terms to search for. You need to identify the keywords for the research topic and possible synonyms or equivalent terms.

Use *Boolean* or *Pseudo-Boolean* search logic

Determine what search logic you need to search successfully. You can either use Boolean or Pseudo-Boolean search logic.

For example:

If you have to do research on “The Annual Migration of the Humpback Whales,” you would use the following search command:

+annual +migration +humpback whales  
or

yearly AND migration AND humpback whales

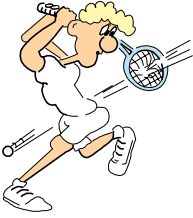
Nonexamples:

If you have to do research on “The Annual Migration of the Humpback Whales,” you would use the following search command:

+annual –migration +humpback whales  
or

yearly NOT migration AND humpback whales





Let's Practice:

If you have to write a report on the effects of drought on the water cycle, which of the following search command would you use?

- A. dry OR water cycle
- B. drought NOT water cycle
- C. wet +nutrient cycle
- D. drought +water cycle\*

Feedback:

If you have to write a report on the effects of drought on the water cycle, which of the following search command would you use?

- A. Incorrect This will not find information on drought and water cycles.
- B. Incorrect This will not find information on drought and water cycles.
- C. Incorrect This will not find information on drought and water cycles.
- D. **Correct.** By typing “drought +water cycle” into a search engine, you will find information on drought and water cycles.