TOPIC WORKSHEET

Jot down a topic or subject you’d like to explore in the library databases or on the Web:

1. What distinctive words are likely to be in ANY Web documents on your topic? (You may want to join these words using AND. Ex. Cows AND brucellosis)

2. Can you think of synonyms for the words in #1 that might be found in Web documents? (You could use OR to search for these. Ex. homicide OR murder)

3. What societies, organizations, or groups might have information on your subject via their webpages? (Search these as a “phrase in quotes.” Ex. “American Cancer Society”)

4. What broader terms might cover your topic? (If you are having trouble finding information, you may be using search terms that are too specific. Ex. Search for “common frogs” instead of “painted mantella.”)

Adapted from Joe Barker, Teaching Library, UC Berkeley. Regents of the University of California.