

SIRS Discoverer® • Student Workbook



Middle School Edition

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Worksheet One: Subject Tree Branches

Name: _____ Date: _____

To do research, you must first become familiar with the Full-Text Articles database you are using.

You will learn to create Subject Tree branches in order to find the articles you want to use. Keep in mind that many branches will lead to the same article. So if you come up with the same article titles while searching different branches, don't be surprised!

You can tell the difference between topics, subtopics and articles in two ways:

- I. Article titles will always follow a book icon.
- II. Topics (and subtopics) will always follow a < or >:
 - > means go forward; there are more subtopics or more articles ahead.
 - < means go backwards; there are broader topics or categories behind.

The first branch you create will look like this:

NOTABLE PEOPLE > Explorers > articles

1. Select the category NOTABLE PEOPLE. Notice the topics.
2. Select the topic Explorers. Notice the article titles.
3. Choose two article titles that interest you. Write the titles exactly as they appear on the screen.

a. _____

b. _____

4. Click Subject Tree Browse at the bottom of the screen.

The next branch you create will look like this:

SCIENCE > Medical Science > treatments & cures > article

5. Select the category SCIENCE. Notice the topics.
6. Select the topic Medical Science. Notice the subtopics and article titles.
7. Select the subtopic treatments & cures. Notice that you only see article titles now.
8. Choose one article title that interests you. Write the title exactly as it appears on the screen in the space provided.

Worksheet Two: Subject Tree Branches

Name: _____ Date: _____

To explore the SIRS Discoverer database, you will create Subject Tree branches.

1. Look at the Subject Tree Browse screen. Choose one of the 15 categories to explore and write it in the space provided.

Ex: Environment

Select that category to view related topics.

2. Choose one topic that interests you and write it below.

Ex: Ecology & Ecosystems

3. Are there article titles listed to the left of the topic list? Yes No

Select the topic you wrote in question 2 to view related subtopics.

4. Do you see subtopics? Yes No (Subtopics follow a >.)

5. If you said YES, choose one subtopic that interests you.

Ex: coastal & marine

6. Are there article titles listed? Yes No

7. If you said YES, choose one article title that interests you and write it in the space provided.

If you chose a subtopic for question 5, select it now to view the list of full-text articles. Otherwise, go to question 9.

8. You will see only article titles now. Choose one article title that interests you and write it below.

Ex: "Safe Beaches"

Retrace your steps by filling in the blanks.

9. Category: _____

Topic: _____

Subtopic or Article Title: _____

Article Title: _____

Ex: ENVIRONMENT > Ecology & Ecosystems > coastal & marine > "Safe Beaches"

Worksheet Three: Subject Tree Browsing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Think of a general subject for a research report and write it below.

1. Look at the SIRS Discoverer Browse Subject Tree box on the main window. Write a category that might contain articles about your research subject.

Select that category to view related topics.

2. What are two topics that might contain articles about your research subject?

a. _____ b. _____

Select the topic you chose for question 2a to view related subtopics.

3. Do you see subtopics? Yes No
Do you see article titles? Yes No

4. What is one subtopic OR one article title that fits your research subject?

Now select the topic you chose for question 2b to view related subtopics.

5. Do you see subtopics? Yes No
Do you see article titles? Yes No

6. What is one subtopic OR one article title that fits your research subject?

If you did not choose any subtopics for questions 4 or 6, skip to question 9. Otherwise, answer questions 7 and 8.

7. Choose one subtopic from your response to either question 4 or 6.

Select that subtopic to view the list of full-text articles.

8. What is one article title that fits your research subject?

Finally, make three Subject Tree branches for your research subject.

9. Retrace your steps by filling in the blanks.

	Category	Topic	Subtopic/Article	Article
A.	i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
B.	i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
C.	i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____

Worksheet Four: Subject Tree Browsing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Perform a complete Subject Tree Search. Follow the example below.

Pretend you are doing a report called: "Problems caused by smoking tobacco."

Follow the Subject Tree branches below to fill in the blanks with article titles.

Try to write a different article title for each blank.

Category	Topic	Subtopic/Article	Article
1. DRUGS & ALCOHOL	Smoking & Tobacco	a. _____	b. _____
2. DRUGS & ALCOHOL	Kids Speak Out!	a. _____	b. _____
3. ENVIRONMENT	Pollution	air pollution & acid rain	a. _____
4. HEALTH & HUMAN BODY	Parts of the Body	lungs	a. _____
5. HEALTH & HUMAN BODY	Cancer	tobacco & cancer	a. _____
6. HEALTH & HUMAN BODY	Environmental Health	air pollution & acid rain	a. _____
7. HEALTH & HUMAN BODY	Physical Diseases & Disorders	heart disease	a. _____
8. PERSONAL GROWTH	Kids Speak Out!	drugs & alcohol	a. _____
9. SOCIAL ISSUES	Consumerism	health	a. _____
10. SOCIAL ISSUES	Public Health	health care	a. _____

Worksheet Five: Subject Tree Browsing

Name: _____ Date: _____

Perform a complete Subject Tree Browse. Begin by choosing a research subject.

Your goal is to find three articles that will help you write a research report.

1. Research subject: _____

2. Find two of the 15 categories that might contain information on your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

3. Open those categories, one at a time, and list up to two topics for each that might contain information on your research subject.

Category

Topic

a. i. _____

ii. _____

ii. _____

b. i. _____

ii. _____

ii. _____

4. Open those topics, one at a time, and list up to two subtopics for each that might contain information on your research subject. If you cannot find any subtopics that relate to your research subject, find articles that relate to it and write up to two article titles. If you see appropriate subtopics and articles, choose one of each.

Category

Topic

Subtopic/Article

a. i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iii. _____

b. i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

iii. _____

Worksheet Five (continued)

5. Complete your Subject Tree branches by opening the subtopics, one at a time, and writing one article title for each that relates to your research subject. If you selected an article title instead of a subtopic for any Subject Tree branch, that branch is complete.

Category	Topic	Subtopic/Article	Article
		iii. _____	iv. _____
i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
		iii. _____	iv. _____
	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
i. _____		iii. _____	iv. _____
	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
		iii. _____	iv. _____

6. Select three of the articles above that most closely relate to your research subject. Write them in Subject Tree branch form below.

Category	Topic	Subtopic/Article	Article
ii. _____	ii. _____	ii. _____	ii. _____
ii. _____	ii. _____	ii. _____	ii. _____
ii. _____	ii. _____	ii. _____	ii. _____
ii. _____	ii. _____	ii. _____	ii. _____

Worksheet Six: Keyword Searches

Name: _____ Date: _____

Keyword Search helps you find articles by telling the computer to look for certain words in the Full-Text Articles database.

Select the Keyword/Natural Language Search option from the SIRS Discoverer search box.

1. Your research subject is *All about dinosaurs*. Enter this key word: dinosaur.
What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____
2. Your research subject is *How to protect the environment*. Clear the search field, then enter these key words: *environment AND protect*.
What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____
3. Your research subject is *Famous basketball players*. Clear the search field, then enter these key words: *basketball AND famous AND players*.
What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____
4. Your research subject is *The solar system*. Clear the search field, then enter these key words using AND in between each word: *solar system AND sun AND planets*
What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____
5. Here are some other Keyword Searches for you to try. Enter each word or two-word phrase in the Search box.

Be sure to select the correct linking word (**AND**, **OR**, or **NOT**) between them. Phrases must be enclosed in quotation marks to ensure that multiple words appearing next to one another in a specified order will be found within the article text.

Be sure to use parentheses as needed (see below). After completing each search, clear the field.

"African American"	"African American" OR "Black American"	
girls	girls AND sports	girls AND sports AND school
cats	cats OR dogs	cats OR dogs OR pets
movies	movies NOT television	movies NOT television AND "United States"
careers	careers AND science	careers AND science NOT doctors
Chinese	Chinese OR Mexican	Chinese OR Mexican AND food
heart	heart AND exercise	heart AND exercise OR sports
computers	computers AND sports	computers AND sports AND science
war	war AND America	war AND America AND Russia

Worksheet Seven: Key Words & Keyword Searching

Name: _____ Date: _____

Keyword Search helps you find articles by telling the computer to look for certain words in the Full-Text Articles database.

1. Pretend you are researching the subject *How exercise keeps your heart healthy*.
2. Brainstorm! Think of as many words or two-word phrases as you can that relate to that subject.

3. Chose three of the words or two-word phrases above and enter them in the space below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Perform a Keyword Search using those words. Be sure to put quotation marks around a two-word phrase (i.e. "heart attack").

4. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____
5. Now choose a research subject of your own: _____
6. Brainstorm! Think of as many words or two-word phrases as you can that relate to that subject.

7. Chose three of the words or two-word phrases above and enter them in the space below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Perform a Keyword Search using those words.

8. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

Worksheet Eight: Truncation

Name: _____ Date: _____

Truncation lets you broaden your Keyword Search by including variations of your key words.

When you put an asterisk (*) after the root of a key word and enter it in the Search screen, the computer will search for all words that begin with the letters before the *.

For example, a Keyword Search for the key word farm* will produce a list of articles that contain words such as: *farm, farms, farmer, farmed, farmhand....*

1. When researching the subject *Why smoking makes you sick*, some key words are: *smoking, health, cigarette, lungs, heart, disease, cancer.*
2. Truncate the following words by putting an * where you think the root word ends. Sometimes it's at the end of the word (if it's a short word) and sometimes it's in the middle. Think of one word for each of the following key words that you think the computer will have in its list (but don't just write its plural).

Key word	Truncation	Your Guess
<i>Ex: health</i>	<i>health*</i>	<i>healthy</i>
smoking _____	_____	_____
cigarette _____	_____	_____
heart _____	_____	_____
disease _____	_____	_____
cancer _____	_____	_____

3. Click on the Keyword/Natural Language option and perform a keyword search using a word from your Truncation column. How many articles were found?

Worksheet Nine: The AND Logical Operator

Name: _____ Date: _____

Logical operators are limits, or borders. In Keyword Search, you have your choice of three logical operators (**AND**, **OR**, **NOT**) to help limit, or put borders, around your search. The key words you choose must be linked by a logical operator.

The AND logical operator between all three words tells the computer to find articles that include all of your key words.

Example: Entering *pets* **AND** *dogs* **AND** *cats* would find articles that have ALL of those words.

1. Choose a research subject that interests you. _____

2. Brainstorm! Think of three words or two-word phrases that relate to your subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Choose the Keyword/Natural Language option from the SIRS Discoverer Search box.

3. Type the three words you have listed as you will enter them in the Keyword Search box. Be sure to put quotation marks around two-word phrases.

First word: _____

AND: _____

AND: _____

4. Enter your three key words in the Keyword Search box. Be sure to use the **AND** logical operator between them.

5. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

Worksheet Nine (continued)

Name: _____ Date: _____

6. Write up to three article titles most appropriate to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Try it again, with a different research subject and different related words.

7. Research subject: _____

8. Write three key words or two-word phrases related to your subject.

First word: _____

AND: _____

AND: _____

9. Enter the above words in the Search box.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

10. Write up to three article titles most appropriate to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Worksheet Ten: The OR Logical Operator

Name: _____ Date: _____

Logical operators are limits, or borders. In Keyword Search, you have your choice of three logical operators (**AND**, **OR**, **NOT**) to help limit, or put borders, around your search. The key words you choose must be linked by a logical operator.

The OR logical operator between all three words tells the computer to find articles that include all of your key words.

Example: Entering *pets* **OR** *dogs* **OR** *cats* would find articles that AT LEAST ONE of those key words.

1. Choose a research subject that interests you. _____

2. Brainstorm! Think of three words or two-word phrases that relate to your subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Choose the Keyword/Natural Language option from the SIRS Discoverer Search box.

3. Type the three words you have listed as you will enter them in the Keyword Search box. Be sure to put quotation marks around two-word phrases.

First word: _____

OR: _____

OR: _____

4. Enter your three key words in the Keyword Search box. Be sure to use the **AND** logical operator between them.

5. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

Worksheet Ten (continued)

6. Write up to three article titles most appropriate to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Try the OR logical operator search again, with a different research subject and different related words.

7. Research subject: _____

8. Write three key words or two-word phrases related to your subject.

First word: _____

OR: _____

OR: _____

9. Enter the above words in the Search box.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

10. Write up to three article titles most appropriate to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Worksheet Eleven: The NOT Logical Operator

Name: _____ Date: _____

Logical operators are limits, or borders. In Keyword Search, you have your choice of three logical operators (**AND**, **OR**, **NOT**) to help limit, or put borders, around your search. The key words you choose must be linked by a logical operator.

The NOT logical operator between all three key words limits your search to include articles that contain the first key word you enter but NOT the other two key words.

Example: Entering *pets* **NOT** *dogs* **NOT** *cats* would find articles that have ONLY THE FIRST key word.

1. Choose a research subject that interests you. _____

2. Brainstorm! Think of three words or two-word phrases that relate to your subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Choose the Keyword/Natural Language option from the SIRS Discoverer Search box.

3. Type the three words you have listed as you will enter them in the Keyword Search box. Be sure to put quotation marks around two-word phrases.

First word: _____

NOT: _____

NOT: _____

4. Enter your three key words in the Keyword Search box. Be sure to use the **NOT** logical operator between them.

5. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

Worksheet Eleven (continued)

6. Write up to three article titles most appropriate to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Try it again, with a different research subject and different related words.

7. Research subject: _____

8. Write three key words or two-word phrases related to your subject.

First word: _____

NOT: _____

NOT: _____

9. Enter the above words in the Search box.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

10. Write up to three article titles most appropriate to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Worksheet Twelve: Keyword Searching

Name: _____ Date: _____

Following are some Keyword Searches for you to try. You will be using two special features, truncation and logical operators, in your searches.

Exercise #1

Research subject: *Why dogs and cats are good pets* **Key words:** *pet** AND (*dog** OR *cat**)

1. Enter the key words in the Search box. Be sure to use the correct logical operators and use parentheses as needed.
2. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Search? _____
3. Write three article titles that interest you.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

Exercise #2

Research subject: *Why animals other than dogs and cats are good pets* **Key words:** *pet** NOT (*dog** OR *cat**)

4. Enter the key words in the Search box. Be sure to use parentheses around the **OR** terms.
5. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____
6. Write three article titles that interest you.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
7. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with your first search? MORE FEWER

Exercise #3:

Research subject: *Why just dogs are good pets* **Key words:** *pet** AND (*dog** NOT *cat**)

8. Enter the key words in the Search box. Be sure to use the correct logical operators and use parentheses as needed.
9. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____
10. Write three article titles that interest you.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
11. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with Exercise #1? MORE FEWER
12. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with Exercise #2? MORE FEWER

Worksheet Thirteen: Keyword Searching

Name: _____ Date: _____

Practice Keyword Searching by choosing your own research subject and your own logical operators.

1. Choose a research subject: _____

2. Brainstorm! Think of three words or two-word phrases that relate to your subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Think of the best way to use the **AND**, **OR** and **NOT** logical operators to search for the exact articles you want. Write your key words below and remember to use one of the logical operators between them. Remember to use truncation!

First word: _____

AND OR NOT _____

AND OR NOT _____

4. Click on the Keyword/Natural Language option. Enter the key words in the Search box.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

5. Write up to three article titles related to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

6. Try it again using the same key words but with a different combination of logical operators. Remember to use truncation!

First word: _____

AND OR NOT _____

AND OR NOT _____

Worksheet Thirteen (continued)

7. Enter the key words in the Search box. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search?

8. Write up to three article titles related to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

9. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with your first search? MORE FEWER

10. Try it again using the same key words but with a different combination of logical operators.
Remember to use truncation!

First word: _____

AND OR NOT _____

AND OR NOT _____

11. Enter the key word in the Search box.
What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? _____

12. Write up to three article titles related to your research subject.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

13. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with your first search? MORE FEWER

14. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with your second search? MORE FEWER

Worksheet Fourteen: Subject Headings Search

Name: _____ Date: _____

Subject Headings Search is most useful when you have a specific research topic in mind and you want to use a subject index to quickly locate articles related to that topic.

Articles on SIRS Discoverer are indexed according to Library of Congress subject headings.

1. From the main screen, select the Subject Headings option in the Search box. When you type the subject heading term in the Search box, the computer searches the list of subject headings (not articles) on the SIRS Discoverer database. A list of subject headings that contain your search term will be returned.
2. Your research topic is *Presidents*. Enter the term *Presidents* in the search box. Then click the Search button. How many subject headings did you find that begin with the term *Presidents*?
3. Find the subject heading *Presidents*. Click on it and you will see a list of articles about presidents and a list of "See Also..." "See..." and "See Also..." are cross references to other related subject headings.
4. Select an article that may be of interest to you. Click on it to view the full text of the article. Write the title of the article you selected exactly as it appears on the screen:

You have just completed a simple Subject Headings Search.

For a new Subject Headings Search, go back to the Search box.

(Note: The term you type must be a term used in a subject heading in the program, otherwise you will get the message: "There are no subject headings matching your search.")

You can enter more than one word to find a subject heading. Entering a phrase, however, will narrow your search. Be sure to put quotation marks around phrases.

Try these words and phrases for some successful Subject Headings searches:

animals

fishing

obesity

astronauts

earth

dinosaurs

insects

sun

earthquakes

explorers

brain

smoking

fat

disasters

ocean

"American eagle"

"Black history"

"red blood cells"

"recycling centers"

"cancer causing agents"

Worksheet Fifteen: Phrase Search, Truncation

Name: _____ Date: _____

You may also use phrases or truncation in your Subject Headings Search.

Remember that you must enter actual Subject Heading terms used in the program or you will get the message: "There are no subject headings matching your search." It is best to begin with a general term.

Phrase Search

Phrase search greatly narrows your search because all the terms you enter must appear in an actual subject heading.

1. Your research subject is *sports team*. Type the phrase *sports team*. How many subject headings did you find that matched your search?

2. Click on subject heading *Sports teams*. How many articles did you find on this subject?

3. Select one of these articles that may be of interest to you. Write the title of this article exactly as it appears on the screen.

Here are some other phrases for you to try:

African American
human cloning
air traffic control

eating disorders
electronic mail
energy conservation

virtual reality
school uniforms
space shuttle

Truncation

Truncation greatly broadens a search. For example, if your research topic was *farming*, you could enter *farm**. (The asterisk indicates where you think the root word ends.) The computer will display a list of subject headings containing not only the word *farm*, but also *farmer*, *farmers* and *farming*. Entering just the word *farm* (without the *) would have limited your list of subject headings to only those with the word *farm* in them.

1. Enter the word *farm**. How many subject headings matched your search term?

2. Enter the word *farm* (without the*). How many subject headings matched your search term?

Here are some other terms for which you can search using truncation: *smoke (smok*)*, *environment**, *work**, *health**.

Worksheet Sixteen: AND, OR, NOT

Name: _____ Date: _____

Logical Operators (AND, OR, NOT)

In Subject Headings Search you can also use logical operators (**AND**, **OR**, **NOT**). Be aware that they will greatly narrow or expand the results of your search. Remember that you must enter actual subject heading terms used in the program or you will get the message: "There are no subject headings matching your search."

AND Operator

The **AND** operator tells the computer to find subject headings that include all the terms you enter. What this means is that whatever terms you enter, they must all appear in one subject heading. This greatly narrows your search.

1. Enter *drug* **AND** *abuse*. How many subject headings did you find? _____
2. Enter *drug* **AND** *abuse* **AND** *AIDS*. How many subject headings did you find? _____

You can see how the **AND** operator can, in some cases, narrow your search too much so that you get no results.

OR Operator

The **OR** operator between search terms tells the computer to find subject headings that contain one or more of your search terms. This greatly broadens your search.

1. Enter *pets* **OR** *dogs*.
How many subject headings were found that match your search terms? _____
2. Enter *pets* **OR** *dogs* **OR** *cats* **OR** *lizards*.
How many subject headings did you find matching your search terms? _____

NOT Operator

The **NOT** operator limits your search to include subject headings that contain the first term but not the other(s).

1. Enter *pets* **NOT** *dogs* **NOT** *cats*.
How many subject headings were found that matched your search terms? _____
2. Judging from the subject headings displayed, on what types of pets can you find information?

Worksheet Seventeen: Summary and Source Information Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

Perform a Subject Tree Browse to find one article that interests you.

1. Open that article and click the Summary and Source icon on the upper left side.
2. Write the following information:

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

SOURCE: _____

PUBLICATION DATE: _____

PAGE NUMBER(S): _____

URL OF HOME PAGE: _____

3. Read the summary.

Perform a Keyword Search to find a different article that interests you.

4. Open that article and click the Summary and Source icon on the upper left side.
5. Write the following information:

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

SOURCE: _____

PUBLICATION DATE: _____

PAGE NUMBER(S): _____

URL OF HOMEPAGE: _____

6. Read the summary.

7. Click the title and read the article. Write your own summary: _____

Worksheet Eighteen: Basic Bibliography Form

Name: _____ Date: _____

A bibliography is the list of sources you used to find information for your research report.

1. Perform a Subject Tree, Keyword or Subject Headings Search to find one article that interests you.
2. Open that article and click the Summary and Source icon.
3. Write the following information:

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

SOURCE: _____

PUBLICATION DATE: _____

PAGE NUMBER(S): _____

URL OF HOMEPAGE: _____

Arrange the source information you have gathered in Modern Language Association (MLA) works cited format:

Author. "Article Title." Original Source of Article Date of original source: page numbers. Name of the Database Used. Name of the Service. Library where database was accessed, Location of library. Date of Access <URL of service's home page>.

Example:

Egan, Jill. "Good News for Grizzlies." Time for Kids March 20, 2006: n.p. SIRS Discoverer. SIRS Discoverer on the Web. Silver Lakes Middle School Library, North Lauderdale, FL. 9 June 2006 <<http://www.sirs.com>>.

4. Write the source information for your article in MLA works cited format. _____

Worksheet Nineteen: Research Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Research subject: _____

Perform a Subject Tree Browse to find an article relating to your research subject.

1. Write the Subject Tree branch you followed to find the article.

Category	Topic	Subtopic/Article	Article
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Read the article. List three facts you learned about your research subject. Write complete sentences.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Works cited:

Select the Summary and Source icon for the article you read. Write the source information in Modern Language Association (MLA) works cited format.

Example:

Egan, Jill. "Good News for Grizzlies." Time for Kids March 20, 2006: n.p. SIRS Discoverer. SIRS Discoverer on the Web. Silver Lakes Middle School Library, North Lauderdale, FL. 9 June 2006 <<http://www.sirs.com>>.

Worksheet Twenty: Research Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Research subject: _____

Perform a Keyword Search to find an article relating to your research subject.

1. Write the Keyword Search words and chose a logical operator to use in finding the article.

First word: _____

AND OR NOT _____

AND OR NOT _____

2. Article title: _____

3. Read the article. List three facts you learned about your research subject. Write complete sentences.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

4. Bibliography:

Select the Summary and Source icon for the article you read. Write the source information in Modern Language Association (MLA) works cited format. _____

Egan, Jill. "Good News for Grizzlies." Time for Kids March 20, 2006: n.p. SIRS Discoverer. SIRS Discoverer on the Web. Silver Lakes Middle School Library, North Lauderdale, FL. 9 June 2006 <<http://www.sirs.com>>.

Worksheet Twenty-One: Article Summary

Name: _____ Date: _____

Perform a Subject Tree, Keyword or Subject Headings Search to find one article that interests you.

1. Select the Summary and Source icon to fill in the blanks below.

TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

SOURCE: _____

PUBLICATION DATE: _____

PAGE NUMBER(S): _____

URL OF HOMEPAGE: _____

2. List three main ideas from the article.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

3. Write a paragraph summarizing the article. Be sure to include the main ideas.

Worksheet Twenty-Three: Dictionary Definitions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Search or Browse the database to find an article that interests you.

1. Article title: _____

2. Open the article. As you read it, choose two words that you want to define. You can stop reading when you have found two words.

a. _____

b. _____

3. Define each word using the on-screen dictionary.

a. Copy and Paste

Click-and-drag on your first word to highlight it. Choose Edit from the pull-down at the top of your screen, then click on Copy. Open the Dictionary at the top of the screen. Right click over the Search term box, then Paste your word in the Search box. Click the Search button.

b. Type

Open the Dictionary, then click the Clear button to clear the Search term box. Type your second word, then click on the Search button.

4. Enjoy reading the entire article! Remember, you can look up any word you would like to know in the on-screen dictionary.

Worksheet Twenty-Four: Dictionary Definitions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Even when you don't know the exact meaning of certain words, you can often guess the meaning based on the context in which it is used.

For example, you may not know the meaning of the word **intense**, but could probably guess it from the following sentence:

"The **intense** heat caused all the snow to melt in only an hour!" If you guessed intense means "very strong," you were right!

Now try some educated guessing on your own:

1. Search or Browse the database to find an article that interests you.

Article title: _____

2. Open the article. As you read it, choose three words that you want to define. You can stop reading when you have found three words.

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

3. Go back to the article and read the sentences containing each of the words above. Guess the meaning of each word as it is used in context.

4. Write what you think the meaning of each word is.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

5. Now define each word using the on-screen dictionary.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

6. How did you do? How many of your definitions were:

Way off: _____ Close: _____ Right on!: _____

7. Enjoy reading the entire article! Remember, you can look up any word you would like to know in the on-screen dictionary.

Worksheet Twenty-Five: Dictionary Definitions

Name: _____ Date: _____

A synonym is a word that means almost exactly the same thing as another word. A thesaurus is a reference book that contains synonyms.

1. Search or Browse the database to find an article that interests you.

Article title:

2. Open the article. As you read it, choose three words that you want to define. You can stop reading when you have found three words.

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

3. Define each word using the on-screen dictionary.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

4. Find a synonym for each word using the on-screen thesaurus.

a. _____ b. _____ c. _____

5. Use each synonym in an original sentence.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

6. Enjoy reading the entire article! Remember, you can look up any word you would like to know in the on-screen diction-

Worksheet Twenty-Six: Using the Almanac

Name: _____ Date: _____

The World Almanac for Kids database can be searched using two methods, Table of Contents Search and Keyword Search.



Table of Contents Search

1. Once in the Almanac, click on Table of Contents.
2. Which chapter would you select for information about nations? Open this chapter.
3. Which topic title would give you information about all the nations of the world?
4. Go into the full text of this topic and answer the following questions:
 - a. How many nations are in the world?
 - b. What is the capital city of China?
 - c. What is the population of Greece?
 - d. Which country has more people, Egypt or South Africa?
5. Click on the camera and select the graphic named *Afghanistan: Flag*.
 - a. How many stripes does this flag have?
 - b. What are the colors of this flag?
6. Go back to the Table of Contents and select a chapter that interests you.
7. Look at the subchapters and/or topics under the chapter. Select one topic that interests you and view the full text.
8. In a complete sentence, write one fact you learned.

Worksheet Twenty-Seven: Using the Almanac

Name: _____ Date: _____

The World Almanac for Kids database can be searched using two methods, Table of Contents Search and Keyword Search.



Keyword Search

This Keyword Search operates the same way as Keyword Search in the Full-Text Articles database.

1. Your research subject is *History*.
2. Write several words that relate to the subject *History*.

3. Select one of these words and enter it in Keyword Search. Write the one you entered. _____
4. How many topics did you find that satisfied your Keyword Search? _____
5. Select one of these topics and write its name. _____
6. Now view the full text and read it.
7. In a complete sentence, write one interesting fact you learned from this topic text. _____

Now try some searches trying **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**.

8. Enter ROCKS **AND** MINERALS. How many topics did you find? _____
9. Enter ROCKS **OR** MINERALS. How many topics did you find? _____
10. Enter ROCKS **NOT** MINERALS. How many topics did you find? _____
11. Which logical operator (**AND**, **OR**, or **NOT**) gave you the most hits? _____

Worksheet Twenty-Eight: Using the Encyclopedia

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Compton's by Britannica database can be searched using Text Search.



1. Once in the Encyclopedia, type HORSE in the Text Search box and press enter.

The Search box returns encyclopedia articles that have the search term in the title and/or text. Remember, also try to search the Full-Text Articles and The World Almanac for Kids whenever you do research in SIRS Discoverer.

2. The text search brings up the articles that contain the word HORSE in the title first. Which article would you select for information about horses in sports?

3. Open that article and scan its contents to see if you were right! Name at least one sport involving horses.

If you can't find this information about horse sports, go back and try again until you find what you need to know.

4. Return to the Search box and type BASEBALL. Click on the Search button.

5. Open the BASEBALL article. Who are the famous infielders in Baseball history?

6. Scan the article to find the answer to the following question. In what year was the Baseball Hall of Fame dedicated?

7. Return to the Encyclopedia menu and search for a subject that interests you. Select and view a full-text article, then write one new fact you learned.

Worksheet Twenty-Nine: Using the Encyclopedia

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Compton's by Britannica database can be searched using Text Search.



1. Open the Encyclopedia.

2. Your research subject is Europe. Write three words that relate to this subject.

3. Select one of your words and enter it in Text Search. Write the word you entered and the number of encyclopedia articles that contain it.

This Text Search only searches the encyclopedia. Remember to try your key word search in the Full-Text Articles database as well as *The World Almanac for Kids* for any research assignments.

4. Select an article to read. When you are finished reading it write a summary below.

Now try some searches using **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**.

5. Enter *Paris* **AND** *France*. How many topics did you find? _____
6. Enter *Paris* **OR** *France*. How many topics did you find? _____
7. Enter *Paris* **NOT** *France*. How many topics did you find? _____
8. Which logical operator (**AND**, **OR** or **NOT**) gave you the most hits? _____
9. Try searching with two of your words in #2 (above) using **AND**, **OR** and **NOT**. Write your results below.
_____ **AND** _____ How many did you find? _____
_____ **OR** _____ How many did you find? _____
_____ **NOT** _____ How many did you find? _____