

# Search mechanics (how search works)

What is a database?

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Badke: “a collection of data that can be retrieved using organized search”

Examples?

# What does a search engine do?

Search engines retrieve  
information from databases.

## Examples?

# Questions about search engines?

- Did you understand Liddy's explanation?
- Had you known any of this before?
- Do you have any questions?

# Getting the most out of search

- Boolean searching
- Truncation (like stemming)
- Phrase searching
- Nested searching

Have you ever used any of these?

# Exercise

- Practice searching for your research topic:
  - Choose keywords to describe your topic
  - Search in one of the alternative search engines we just looked at
  - Try using Boolean searching

## **Blog Homework:**

Do a search on the research topic you're considering for your paper in at least one internet search engine and one library resource (catalog or databases). What words did you use to search? What are the similarities and differences between the results of your two searches?