
Database Vocabulary

Abstract — brief summary of a book or article. *See Fig. 1 on the back of this sheet.*

Bibliographic Record- a description of an item in the database. Each record is made up of *fields*. Typically the record includes author, title of article, title of periodical, volume, date, page numbers. We often refer to the bibliographic record as a “citation.” *See Fig. 1 on the back of this sheet.*

Boolean — a search strategy for electronic databases. In most databases, Boolean searches allow you to combine two or more search terms using the operators “and,” “or,” “not,” and sometimes “near.” *See your green Using Boolean to Search Library Catalog and Electronic Databases by Keyword handout.*

Database — a large collection of data, arranged into individual records. Examples of databases include phonebooks, restaurant menus, and store catalogs.

Citation — a complete reference to a particular source. A citation usually includes the author, title, and other information needed to find the source.

Citation Database — *bibliographic records* include *citations* to the articles and documents and often an *abstract* of the article. Tells you the source of an article or document.

Electronic Database — a *database* available electronically, either On-line or by CD-ROM. Amazon.com, Encyclopedia on Disc, and *subscription databases*, like Academic Search Premiere, are examples of Electronic Databases.

Field — parts of the *bibliographic record*, such as the author, title of article, and title of periodical, volume, date, page numbers. *See Fig. 1 on the back of this sheet.*

Field Searching — An advanced searching feature that allows you to search only in specific *field*.

Full-text Database — *bibliographic records* include the full-text of the article or document, as well as the *citation*.

Subject Heading — a uniform word or group of words used to describe the subject of library materials. Most databases include a field for Subject Headings. This helps you find the main subject of an article or document. *Field Searching* by subject helps you find sources that are highly relevant to your search term, if you know the correct Subject Heading to use.

Subscription databases — *electronic databases* which – though they may be delivered on the Internet – are not free but are paid for out of the library’s budget. Most items – including many full text magazine and newspaper sources – can be accessed from the Online Databases page and are only available to staff and currently enrolled students.

Truncation — a search strategy for electronic databases. Typing a special symbol at the end of a word to retrieves all possible endings of that word (e.g., athl* retrieves athlete, athletes, athletics and athleticism). The online library catalog and most databases at Richland uses * as the truncation symbol. Some databases use ?. *See the back of your green Using Boolean to Search Library Catalog and Electronic Databases by Keyword handout.*

Phrase Searching — a search strategy for electronic databases that uses quotation marks (“ ”) to force the database to look for your search phrase exactly as you typed it. Example: “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.”

Fig. 1: Sample Bibliographic Record for an Article in an Electronic Database.

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Back Forward Stop Refresh Home Search Favorites Media History Mail Print

Address http://0-web8.epnet.com.library.dcccd.edu/citation.asp?tb=1&_uh=btn+Y+A152&_ug=sid+CA943F03%2D00BF%2D46C5%2DAB65%2DAC Go

Title: [Celling Out the Truth.](#)

Authors: [Forbes, Steve](#)

Source: [Forbes](#); 9/6/2004, Vol. 174 Issue 4, p34, 1/3p

Document Type: Article

Subject Terms: [*EMBRYONIC stem cells](#)
[*STEM cells](#)
[*MEDICINE -- Research](#)
[*POLITICS, Practical](#)

Geographic Terms: [UNITED States](#)

People: [KERRY, John](#)
[BUSH, George W. -- Views on stem cells](#)

Abstract: The article discusses the use of embryonic stem cells for research and politics. John Kerry is making a big issue of stem cell research, claiming the Bush Administration's restrictions are cruelly delaying cures for Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries and other afflictions. This is misleading and dishonest. No one questions the use of adult, or nonembryonic, stem cells for medical research and cures. There is no moral issue here. Stem cells are relatively easy to obtain, one of the biggest sources being umbilical cords. The debate is over those harvested by killing embryos. Stem cells derived from nonembryonic sources have already produced heartening medical advances and have saved thousands of lives. So why the focus on embryonic stem cells? Good question. Results from embryonic stem cell experiments have often been disastrous, which is why private research money is overwhelmingly going to areas involving nonembryonic stem cells.

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