Worksheet: Comparing OneSearch@IU & Google

Part 1: Search for Information in a Library Database

OneSearch@IU is a great database for beginning your research (though not necessarily your last only stop). It searches for articles from most of IU Libraries’ databases all at once. This means you may get various types of sources, depending on your search terms and strategy (e.g., scholarly articles, newspaper and magazines).

As you evaluate each source’s relevance, consider its audience and purpose. (NOTE: OneSearch results can be limited by “Source Type” - e.g., scholarly articles, magazines, news, etc.).

To get to OneSearch:

- Open a Web browser and go to libraries.iub.edu.
- Select “Resource Gateway.”
  Click on the link to OneSearch@IU, located in the “Top Recommended Resources” section, right column. (NOTE: To get directly to OneSearch go to libraries.iub.edu/onesearch.)

Search:

- Enter a search term relevant to your topic in the box labeled “Find.” Click “Search.” What kinds of results do you see? (Generally avoid using long strings of words; selective use of a few keywords usually improves search results.)
- Add an additional search term. How does that change the results?
- Explore other search options. Note the search strategies that improve or weaken the relevance of your results.

Choose an article:
Find an article that appears especially relevant to your topic. Follow the links for PDF or full text. If there is no link to the full text, choose the IU Link button to find if we have the article in another database or somewhere in the library. Answer the following:

What is the article title and publication source?

Who is the intended audience? How can you tell?

What is the purpose of the article? Is it informative or persuasive?

State briefly how you might use this source to strengthen your presentation. (Your answers to some of the previous questions about the source may help with considering this.)
Part 2: Search for Information on the Web

In order to put your results into a broader context, search for information on the Web:
- Point your Web browser to www.google.com.
- Try the same search you did in OneSearch.
- Consider how the information retrieved from Google might be used as further evidence in your information investigation.

Choose a result:
Find a web source that appears especially relevant to your topic. Answer the following questions:

URL: ________________________________

Does the site have an author? If yes, who? What do you know about this person/publisher?

Who is the intended audience? How can you tell?

What is the purpose of the web page or website? Is it informative or persuasive?

State briefly how you might use this source to strengthen your presentation. (Your answers to some of the previous questions about the source may help with considering this.)

Part 3: Think and Evaluate

1. How does the information found through Google compare with that retrieved from the library's OneSearch?

2. How do your search experiences in Google and OneSearch compare?

3. Describe 1-2 differences and 1-2 similarities between the type of information you located through OneSearch and the information found through Google. Do these differences suggest anything about how to use library database or Google for your academic work?