Students' Search Strategies on the Web for Learning Purposes
(Poster)

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Abstract

This research examines students' search strategies on the web for learning purposes. The main purpose of this research is to identify the most preferred search strategy among students. Another purpose is to check if there are differences between the students when they choose their search strategy, based on their study field and their level of digital literacy. The student's search strategies are classified into three categories: natural language (writing the search string in speech language), keywords or simple terms, and Boolean operators (predefined terms that highlight the search words and define the connection to the search string structure).

This research is quantitative in that it collects its data through a questionnaire. The questionnaire checked what the students' preferred search strategy was when searching for information, in order to find the information they need on Google, and what their level of digital literacy is. The research sample was 98 students from different study fields. The research findings show that the most preferred search strategy is simple keywords and phrases. When we examine the search strategy choice based on the student's study field, we can see some differences. The students from science and technology field and humanity and social sciences field preferred to use simple keywords and phrases. On the other hand, students from art and design field did not prefer any search strategy. In addition, students with a high-level of digital literacy preferred to use simple keywords and phrases in their search query. The research shows that students preferred to use simple keywords and phrases that have no significant change from the original search request, as found at the professional literature. The students' search strategies match the architecture of the Google search engine, which allows the user the ability to write in their own words exactly what it is they want to find.

Keywords: search strategies, students, academic information, Google, search query.
The use of search strategies among students (Poster) (Strategy for Information Search) in the course of learning among students. The purpose of this study is to examine information search strategies in the internet and to determine which search strategy is preferred by students. The research aims to identify differences in the use of information search strategies among students in the field of learning according to their digital literacy levels.

Students classify their information search strategies into three digital literacy categories: Natural Language (writing a sentence in the language they are used to), keywords or simple expressions, and Boolean operators (common expressions that emphasize the keywords in the information they are looking for). Students search for information using a search strategy that is best suited to them. The research was conducted using a questionnaire among 98 students. The study shows that different search strategies are preferred by students in different fields of study. Students in the sciences and technologies prefer using simple terms, but students in the humanities and social sciences prefer using keywords and Boolean operators. Additionally, students with high digital literacy tend to use simple terms and non-differentiated keywords. Students want to use search strategies that allow them to find the information they need. The keywords are:

- search strategies, students, academic information, Google, search strings.

References:


