Effective Search Techniques
This tutorial discusses . . .

1. Using Boolean Operators, AND, OR, & NOT
2. Narrowing and Expanding Search Results through Phrase Searching and Truncation
3. Brain Storming and Keeping Track of Search Terms
Boolean Operators: AND, OR, & Not

- **AND** — narrows and links terms
- **OR** — expands
- **NOT** — drastically narrows
Using AND to Narrow Search Results

- graffiti
- culture
Using AND to Narrow Search Results

- **g agosto AND culture**
- **AND culture**
Using OR to Broaden Search Results

- graffiti
- street art
- culture
Using OR to Broaden Search Results
Using Not to Exclude Terms from your Search

TIP You should only use NOT to filter out false or clearly irrelevant results.
Using Not to Exclude Terms from your Search
Using Phrase Searching to Narrow Search Results

street + art → “street art”
Sample Search with Phrase Searching

street art and graffiti

street art and graffiti

1 - 10 of 337
1 - 10 of 247
Using Truncation to Broaden Search Results

**Cultur***
- Culture
- Cultural
- Cultures
- Culture’s

“**street art***”
- Street artist
- Street arts
- Street artistry
# Come up with a Search Statement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>• Write down your topic.</th>
<th>graffiti</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Write down 3 major concepts, factors, relevant issues related to your topic.</td>
<td>artistic expression vandalism street art</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Select things that you would want to find research on.</td>
<td>“street art” AND graffiti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Combine major concepts/terms together using “AND” to create a search statement.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• If any of your terms are phrases, put them in quotation marks.</td>
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Start your Research at the KU Libraries Home Page

http://www.lib.ku.edu/

• Search library catalog for books

• Search databases for articles