

## FYS Follow-Up Database Searching Assignment: How, Why, When, Where

### How and When to Assign

Have your FYS students complete the assignment as homework for the class immediately following the library session.

*You do not need to grade it* (but you don't need to tell them you're not going to grade it). You could give points for completion.

### Rationale

This brief assignment gives students important practice in doing smart searching in the OneFile PowerSearch. (Added bonus: the assignment's "practice search" relates to the CIS topic this year.)

Remember: Many students have never had the opportunity to discuss results lists in a database. Doing the exercises in this assignment, with brief (5-minute) follow-up discussion, will empower students to do more thoughtful research in all of their classes.

Learning Outcomes: students will know how to

- 1) navigate to the OneFile PowerSearch home page
- 2) enter a search
- 3) sort out lists of results (which are popular, which are scholarly)
- 4) wrestle with the question of whether a particular article is "scholarly" or "popular"\*\*\*
- 5) read a database record for citation components
- 6) read a database record for indexed **related subjects** listing
- 7) do follow-up searches using the related subjects
- 8) enter a brand new search of their own design

### Discussion Points: this can take as little as 5 minutes

Have students debrief in pairs or small groups—they can compare answers, discuss what they like/don't like about the database, what follow-up searches they chose to do, the difference between keyword and subject searching, and \*\*especially whether the article they are all asked to look at ("Ending childhood hunger in America," *Human Rights*) should be considered scholarly or popular.

We chose an article that the database has listed as a popular source. However, it is interesting to note that the article is published in *Human Rights*, a publication of the American Bar Association, section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities. It is different than an article in, say, *People* magazine. What is it?