Fluency With Information Technology
CSE100/IMT100

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Road Map for Searching & Databases

- Mel Oyler will give next 4 lectures
- Searching
  - Friday 10/8
- Introduction to Databases
  - Monday 10/11
- Queries
  - Wednesday 10/13
- Enterprise Data Warehouses
  - Friday 10/15
Why do we search for information?

- Because we want information
- Information reduces our uncertainty about the state of the world and helps us make decisions
- Information helps us gain a deeper understanding of the world
- We need to do research for that psychology term paper
Where do we search for information?

- Ask an expert
  - Your TA
- Look in my schedule
- Browse the bookstore
  - Physically browse UW bookstore
  - Electronically browse Amazon.com
- Browse the library
- Search the internet
  - Search engines
  - Directories
Important Concepts

- Browsing
  - general
- Searching
  - specific
- Indexing
- Authority
  - Source validity - is the information source credible?
  - Controlled keyword lists - “authority list”
How do we search for information?

- Getting good search results depends on
  - Correct search expressions
  - Well indexed collections of documents
Correct Search Expressions

- Logically correct
  - Restricting the combination of keywords in a document
- Syntactically correct
  - Using the correct symbols and punctuation

- We accomplish this by constructing Boolean expressions and submitting them to a search engine
  - See search engine handout
Boolean Expressions

- **AND**
  - True AND True = True
  - True AND False = False
  - False AND True = False
  - False AND False = False

- **OR**
  - True OR True = True
  - True OR False = True
  - False OR True = True
  - False OR False = False

- **Not**
  - Not True = False
  - Not False = True
Summary

- The library is very well indexed
- The internet is not well indexed
- Getting good search results depends on
  - Correct search expressions
  - Well indexed collections of documents
- Question Authority
- Learn to Build Correct Boolean Search Expressions