

## **GEOS 1005: Geoscience Fundamentals**

### Information Searching and Reading Reflection

Virginia Tech's College of Science librarian, Ed Lener and College of Agriculture and Life Sciences librarian, Margaret Merrill will lead our class meeting next week.

#### **Learning Objectives**

- Write a research statement (thesis statement) on a scientific topic.
- Use the research statement to determine key words for online searching.
- Locate books, journal articles, and other materials relevant to the research statement.

**Task:** Several online modules are available on the VT University Libraries website. Tech's Information Skills Modules provide basic instruction in identifying and locating scholarly information. Go to <http://info-skills.lib.vt.edu> and work through the first three modules:

#1 - Choosing and focusing a topic

#2 - Selecting information sources

#3 - Developing search strategies

Please read the selected modules carefully so that you can follow Ed and Margaret in class. You'll need to know what these terms mean in the context of the information searching world: keywords, Subject Headings, concept table, research question or thesis statement, electronic indexes, web indexes, key concepts, primary concepts, secondary concepts, Boolean Operators (AND, OR, NOT), truncation symbols (\*), wildcards.

#### **Reading Response and Reflection**

After finishing the online modules, download *RR\_information\_searching\_concept\_table\_example.docx* from Scholar/Assignments. This concept table has been filled out for you. Read through it and note how it has been done.

Then, download the file *RR\_information\_searching\_concept\_table\_2012.docx* and rename the file by adding your last name to the end of the filename. You will note that this table is not entirely blank. This year's overall project research statement has been included but you'll need to fill in the rest of the table.

To complete the concept table, begin by writing three research questions about your group's topic (if you don't know what group you're in or what topic you're researching, consult the project introduction document under Scholar/Resources/Project 2012).

Use these research questions to help you identify key concepts or search terms (usually the nouns in your research questions). Using these terms, work through and complete steps 2 and 3. When finished, submit a concept table to assignments but make sure you can also access your concept table electronically in class on Monday.