

00:00:06:17 - 00:00:07:14

Hello and

00:00:07:14 - 00:00:10:16

welcome to the Information
Discovery module.

00:00:10:25 - 00:00:14:23

We are going to be drawing our attention
to the platforms

00:00:14:23 - 00:00:18:27

and the keywords that you use
to discover information on a daily basis.

00:00:19:25 - 00:00:22:23

These platforms
exist all around us in the form of things

00:00:22:23 - 00:00:28:23

like library databases,
in the form of things like online archives

00:00:28:23 - 00:00:32:03

and in the form of the very popular
search engine, Google

00:00:33:08 - 00:00:34:28

or other ones.

00:00:35:06 - 00:00:38:01

The data we're working
with is the textual data

00:00:38:01 - 00:00:39:17

that's on the other side of your search.

00:00:39:17 - 00:00:42:26

So the information you're seeking
is making of the data set in this module.

00:00:44:17 - 00:00:47:19

So like I said, we're going to think
about the interface, right?

00:00:47:20 - 00:00:50:20

What is happening here,

00:00:50:20 - 00:00:53:00

including the keywords
that we're typing in

00:00:53:00 - 00:00:56:11

that get us to
the information we're seeking

00:00:59:10 - 00:01:00:10

I'm going to use a

00:01:00:10 - 00:01:04:05

sample topic of textual portrayals
of learning disabilities

00:01:04:05 - 00:01:06:08

in children in mid-century America here.

00:01:07:29 - 00:01:11:20

So as you follow along with me,
you can use some of these

00:01:11:20 - 00:01:14:12

same words or experiment
with some of your own.

00:01:15:02 - 00:01:17:13

I'm going to show you
some of the anatomy of this topic.

00:01:17:13 - 00:01:20:00

Right here. I've just typed it out for us.

00:01:20:00 - 00:01:21:15

First of all, textual portrayals.

00:01:21:15 - 00:01:22:27

What the heck does that mean?

00:01:22:27 - 00:01:25:17

Because that's going to you know,

00:01:26:00 - 00:01:28:29

where I go to look will depend on
what I'm trying to find.

00:01:29:14 - 00:01:32:26

And I try to find popular

textual publications like newspapers

00:01:32:26 - 00:01:36:10

and magazines,
academic textual publications or literary

00:01:37:00 - 00:01:38:20

Well, together
we're going to look at academic

00:01:38:20 - 00:01:41:20

textual publications,
and I'm assuming I can find those and

00:01:42:03 - 00:01:46:05

a database of texture of literature
that's academic in nature.

00:01:47:06 - 00:01:49:14

But popular textual publications.

00:01:49:14 - 00:01:53:19

I'm going to have you look at later
as you look at a newspaper archives

00:01:55:18 - 00:01:58:23

I'm defining midcentury as 1942, 1970.

00:01:58:23 - 00:02:01:27

That of course is contestable
as is this, frankly.

00:02:03:01 - 00:02:05:19

So again,
thinking through a lot of assumptions

00:02:05:19 - 00:02:08:05

that are being made here,
I think it's part of

00:02:09:07 - 00:02:14:17

really engaging with a search thoughtfully
and just straight from the topic.

00:02:14:17 - 00:02:18:08

Some initial keywords I'll be working with
or learning disabilities and children.

00:02:18:23 - 00:02:19:12

Okay.

00:02:19:12 - 00:02:23:07

So let's
match our search to a specific platform.

00:02:23:08 - 00:02:25:25

I've decided a database is a good place
to go to find

00:02:28:00 - 00:02:29:29

academic literature.

00:02:29:29 - 00:02:33:16

And I know that databases are searchable
collections of information.

00:02:34:13 - 00:02:36:18

So the information found in a library

00:02:36:18 - 00:02:39:27

database is organized
by subject terms and keywords.

00:02:40:15 - 00:02:44:27

A person catalogs an article,
a book, or another textual object

00:02:44:27 - 00:02:49:22

with certain standardized tags or language
in order to make it findable.

00:02:49:23 - 00:02:52:20

The search tool then uses the keywords
you provide

00:02:53:03 - 00:02:56:02

to find information matching those terms

00:02:58:00 - 00:03:01:02

depending on how you run the search
and the platform you're using.

00:03:01:02 - 00:03:04:10

The keywords might be found in the title
abstract body

00:03:04:24 - 00:03:07:11
of the textual object
or even the standardized keywords

00:03:07:11 - 00:03:08:20
in the object's metadata,

00:03:08:20 - 00:03:11:07
depending on how it is cataloged
in different information.

00:03:11:07 - 00:03:13:05
Discovery tools.

00:03:13:05 - 00:03:13:15
Right.

00:03:13:15 - 00:03:17:01
Are going to search differently
and they're going to connect you

00:03:17:01 - 00:03:19:02
with information in very different ways.

00:03:21:17 - 00:03:25:21
So when I'm thinking about my topic
of learning disabilities,

00:03:26:14 - 00:03:29:26
education comes to mind as maybe
a good type of database to look at.

00:03:29:26 - 00:03:33:29
But I think you could very easily
look through all of these subjects and

00:03:33:29 - 00:03:38:11
say, Oh yeah, like psychology is probably
also a good subject to think about.

00:03:38:12 - 00:03:38:28
Right.

00:03:38:28 - 00:03:41:22
And different databases
are going to connect you with different

00:03:41:23 - 00:03:43:04

sources of information.

00:03:44:09 - 00:03:45:19
And so think about that.

00:03:45:19 - 00:03:48:23
The platform that you use
is going to connect with different things.

00:03:49:05 - 00:03:51:02
What is this platform though
we're going to use?

00:03:51:02 - 00:03:53:19
Eric That's what suggested.

00:03:53:19 - 00:03:54:17
It's sponsored by the U.S.

00:03:54:17 - 00:03:59:02
Department of Education, Premier National,
the bibliographic database

00:03:59:02 - 00:04:02:19
of education literature
two kinds of files that are here.

00:04:02:20 - 00:04:04:28
Okay. All right.
So I'm going to look at that.

00:04:05:06 - 00:04:07:05
But how does it run its search?

00:04:07:05 - 00:04:11:07
That's also important to understand,
not only what information

00:04:11:07 - 00:04:14:11
can be found here,
but how it's finding it.

00:04:15:12 - 00:04:16:26
So how does the Eric search work?

00:04:16:26 - 00:04:18:21
I was able to find this.

00:04:18:21 - 00:04:22:16

It's going to look for my search terms
across a set of key Eric Fields

00:04:22:16 - 00:04:26:05

like title, author, source, abstract,
or to scripture descriptor.

00:04:27:28 - 00:04:32:09

This is quite interesting to me
that its ranking of results is determined

00:04:32:09 - 00:04:37:08

by factors including publication date,
which I'm looking at historical stuff.

00:04:37:08 - 00:04:39:12

And so that might not be really helpful
for me.

00:04:39:22 - 00:04:42:25

Notice that it's not running full text
searches, right?

00:04:42:25 - 00:04:44:07

It's just about how the

00:04:46:02 - 00:04:47:21

the object is described.

00:04:47:21 - 00:04:48:10

Okay.

00:04:48:10 - 00:04:52:11

You can use some fancy ways
of searching here, like putting quotes

00:04:52:11 - 00:04:56:29

around a string of words that you want it
to find together by searching by fields

00:04:57:28 - 00:05:00:23

or by using following Boolean logic,
which is worth

00:05:01:03 - 00:05:03:23

understanding if you're going to be doing
library searches.

00:05:04:17 - 00:05:09:23

So that's the end or operators and meaning
if you are looking for two terms

00:05:09:23 - 00:05:14:07

and you want them both to show up together
or might be two terms in one

00:05:14:07 - 00:05:18:22

or the other could show up, maybe if
they're synonymous or kind of synonymous

00:05:20:00 - 00:05:23:15

So I've educated myself a little bit
about what

00:05:23:15 - 00:05:26:27

documents I can find on Eric
and how I can find those documents.

00:05:27:12 - 00:05:28:07

And the last part

00:05:28:07 - 00:05:31:04

of what I want you to think about
are the words that you're typing in.

00:05:31:13 - 00:05:31:23

Okay.

00:05:31:23 - 00:05:35:11

So like I said, we're going to start
with learning disabilities

00:05:37:28 - 00:05:40:13

I'm already getting prompted

00:05:40:13 - 00:05:44:08

to think a little bit more holistically
about the language I'm using here.

00:05:44:20 - 00:05:45:04

Okay.

00:05:45:04 - 00:05:48:00

There are a lot of different ways
of describing learning disabilities,

00:05:48:00 - 00:05:52:12
and depending on how I'm putting
that language in Obscure is going

00:05:52:12 - 00:05:56:11
to match me with different kinds
of different kinds of information sources.

00:05:58:11 - 00:06:00:15
I'm going to just start
with learning disabilities

00:06:00:15 - 00:06:02:21
because that's what I initially did.

00:06:03:18 - 00:06:06:26
And children,
I want them both to show up in my results.

00:06:07:17 - 00:06:08:29
And I have 11,000 results.

00:06:08:29 - 00:06:11:13
Now it looks like
the earliest ones are from 1962.

00:06:11:13 - 00:06:14:20
That is a huge constraint
of this platform.

00:06:14:20 - 00:06:16:10
I'm not getting
a lot of older information.

00:06:16:10 - 00:06:19:17
I might need to look elsewhere for it,
but I can certainly cut out

00:06:19:23 - 00:06:21:23
new, new stuff

00:06:23:12 - 00:06:23:17
Okay.

00:06:24:20 - 00:06:26:21
As I'm looking more for the mid-century

00:06:26:24 - 00:06:30:08
stuff, maybe I want period, because
I really want it to be super academic.

00:06:30:20 - 00:06:31:12
All right.

00:06:31:12 - 00:06:34:29
And I have 22 results
with learning disabilities and children.

00:06:35:20 - 00:06:36:19
Okay.

00:06:40:15 - 00:06:43:15
That's not a whole lot

00:06:46:14 - 00:06:47:02
but I can

00:06:47:02 - 00:06:50:13
look at this data set
and see what it's saying.

00:06:50:24 - 00:06:52:25
It's using words like dyslexia,

00:06:55:19 - 00:06:56:18
okay.

00:06:57:06 - 00:07:00:27
Parents
severe right there, different kinds.

00:07:02:14 - 00:07:04:20
Well, I want you to notice here is

00:07:05:01 - 00:07:06:28
I've probably missed
a whole swath of information

00:07:06:28 - 00:07:09:13
because of the contemporary language
I've used.

00:07:09:13 - 00:07:13:03
Medical and psychological terminology
is a great example of how language

00:07:13:03 - 00:07:16:12
today has changed.

00:07:16:17 - 00:07:20:25
And so labels like ADHD or autism,
bipolar,

00:07:22:08 - 00:07:24:20
those are in common uses today, but

00:07:24:20 - 00:07:26:24
maybe wouldn't have been a few decades ago

00:07:27:28 - 00:07:32:01
who hears a term
that I wouldn't have naturally put in

00:07:32:11 - 00:07:35:10
as I'm looking at some I'm
just kind of going back

00:07:35:10 - 00:07:37:19
and forth,
widening and narrowing down my search.

00:07:39:01 - 00:07:41:01
Mentally retarded.

00:07:41:07 - 00:07:44:09
That's a really antiquated
and now offensive term.

00:07:44:11 - 00:07:47:06
But it is a term
that was used in mid-century America.

00:07:47:21 - 00:07:51:01
And so this is showing you how iterative

00:07:51:28 - 00:07:54:07
searching really is

00:07:56:10 - 00:07:57:03
Okay.

00:07:57:05 - 00:08:01:02
If I put in this, I'm

getting almost 2000 results

00:08:02:19 - 00:08:05:08
and I'm using
the language that might better represent

00:08:05:08 - 00:08:09:08
how people were talking
about learning disabilities at the time.

00:08:11:06 - 00:08:14:10
So I've got a few limiters here.

00:08:14:21 - 00:08:18:06
I also want to draw your attention

00:08:18:06 - 00:08:20:05
to things like this,

00:08:20:05 - 00:08:23:06
which can give you an overall view of how

00:08:25:14 - 00:08:27:20
things are cataloged.

00:08:27:20 - 00:08:29:13
So we have mental retardation.

00:08:29:13 - 00:08:31:26
Exceptional child
research is quite interesting

00:08:32:04 - 00:08:34:05
when I'm not actually an expert in this

00:08:34:05 - 00:08:38:02
and when I think exceptional child
research, I'm thinking that that has to do

00:08:38:02 - 00:08:41:03
with maybe kids
that are testing above the average.

00:08:41:11 - 00:08:44:15
But know, it turns out this is actually
synonymous with special education

00:08:44:27 - 00:08:49:13

So my keywords are changing a lot
based on the data I'm finding,

00:08:49:13 - 00:08:52:23
and I'm going to have to iterate
and change how I'm approaching this.

00:08:52:29 - 00:08:53:27
Okay. Based on that

00:08:55:09 - 00:08:57:26
So hopefully you've

00:08:57:26 - 00:09:01:04
noticed how understanding the interface,
right,

00:09:01:05 - 00:09:03:17
the platform you're using
and how really thinking

00:09:03:17 - 00:09:05:28
through the keywords
and the assumptions that are made there

00:09:06:24 - 00:09:08:29
matters in searching.

00:09:08:29 - 00:09:13:25
I'm going to have you do a similar search
using the chronicling America

00:09:13:25 - 00:09:16:08
American Newspapers Online

00:09:17:13 - 00:09:18:02
Archive.

00:09:18:02 - 00:09:19:16
Now this is going to actually

00:09:19:16 - 00:09:22:12
conduct a search
quite differently than a database would

00:09:23:16 - 00:09:25:17
but you'll need to think both

00:09:25:17 - 00:09:29:11
about this as a platform and as an as well
as the words that you use.