

Kennesaw State University

From the Selected Works of Amy Gratz

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Database Dash

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Available at: <https://works.bepress.com/amy-gratz/11/>

Database Dash

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NUTRITION INFORMATION

This activity introduces students to the variety of resources and useful features available in databases, and was developed as an alternative to the standard database demonstration. A cross between Bingo and a scavenger hunt, small groups of students compete to complete as many tasks as possible in five minutes. The competitive nature of the activity is highly engaging!

NUMBERS SERVED

8–20 students

COOKING TIME

10–15 minutes

DIETARY GUIDELINES

This recipe was designed to be used as a single component of an instruction session following an introduction to other necessary knowledge practices.

ACRL FRAMEWORK ADDRESSED

Searching as Strategic Exploration, allowing students to begin developing the following knowledge practices:

- Design and refine needs and search strategies as necessary, based on search results.
- Understand how information systems are organized in order to access relevant information.

- Use different types of searching language appropriately.
- Manage searching processes and results efficiently.

MAIN INGREDIENTS

- Computer with projector
- 4 to 5 computers (one per group)
- Sticky notes in different colors (one pad per group)
- Timer
- Space for students to easily access the presentation screen
- Paper for keeping score
- Prizes

MAIN COOKING TECHNIQUE

Small group activity, some class discussion

PREPARATION

- Create a presentation slide with the following rules:
 - » Work in [database] on the topic “[instructor’s choice here]”
 - » Only one computer per group
 - » After completing each task, send a group member up to place a sticky note on the appropriate square(s)
 - » Bingos are counted double!
- Develop a list of 24 discreet tasks, such as “locate a magazine article,” that students can complete in the chosen database. In a second presentation

slide, arrange these in a 5x5 Bingo board, placing a “free space” in the center.

- Print one handout per group with a copy of the Bingo board and the rules of the game.
- Prepare a score-pad for use during the session.
- Immediately before the session, prepare the timer for 5 minutes.

COOKING METHOD

1. Set-up: With your rules slide displayed, go over the activity and divide students into groups of about three, handing out the sticky notes. Students should take on specific roles: the “researcher” operates the computer, the “runner” places sticky notes on the presentation board, and the “coordinator” keeps track of progress using the worksheet. Any additional students should be “spotters,” helping the researcher complete the different tasks. Researchers should access the database search page now.
2. Main activity: Once all groups are ready, distribute handouts, switch to the Bingo board slide, and start the timer. Supervise each group to minimize opportunities for cheating—and cheer them on!
3. Scoring/awards: Once time has run out, score each group as follows: One point per task and five point bonuses per

Bingo completed. The group with the most points wins! Hand out prizes.

4. Review: Discuss with the students what they learned, which tasks were most difficult, and any questions they have. Demonstrate any tasks that were either not completed or were particularly confusing.

ALLERGY WARNINGS

- Because this activity is timed, it promotes quantity over quality. It works well for introducing students to a wide variety of resources/tools, but is not appropriate for requiring students to locate high-quality sources.
- Students will often assume they are finished as soon as they get Bingo. Remind them that the goal is to complete as many tasks as they can, not just get five in a row.
- Student teams that fall behind can lose motivation to continue playing. You can counter this by including a cooperative “black-out” component, where the entire class works together to complete every task on the board. Include a secondary prize to be awarded if each task is completed by at least one team, and consider providing one minute of bonus time to achieve this goal.

CHEF’S NOTE

- This activity is very engaging and a lot of fun! I have had several professors tell me that it involved students who were typically not very engaged in the class.

- After completing the activity, I typically do a *very brief* demonstration in a different database, to show that similar tools are available in any library database.
- Identifying 24 tasks to complete in a single database can be difficult. If necessary, create a smaller board, such as 4×4. You will need to adjust the amount of competition time to maintain the challenge.
- I enjoy highlighting some unexpected features of databases, such as the “find a source published in 2016” task in the example, which was used in the fall of 2015. This gave me an opportunity to discuss with the students how the publishing process works.
- Highlight particularly important skills and make these tasks worth 2 points instead of 1 to encourage completion. (In the example, the shaded squares were considered the most important.)
- Inexpensive prizes, such as notebooks and pens, work well for this activity. I often keep the prizes a secret until awarding them; students are competitive even when the reward is a surprise!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- This activity was also presented at the Atlanta Area Bibliographic Instruction Group Conference 2016. The presentation is available at www.slideshare.net/agratz/innovative-database-instruction-bingo.

RESEARCH BINGO: Search Discovery				
LIMIT THE SUBJECT TO "ETHICS" OR "BIOETHICS"	<u>USING DISCOVERY</u> , FORMAT AN MLA STYLE CITATION FOR AN ARTICLE	FIND A "RESEARCH STARTER"	FIND A DVD	LIMIT YOUR SEARCH BY LANGUAGE (ENGLISH ONLY PLEASE!)
FIGURE OUT HOW TO REQUEST A BOOK FROM THE SWILLEY (ATLANTA) LIBRARY	FIND A BOOK REVIEW	FIND A BOOK IN THE MERCER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES	LIMIT YOUR SEARCH TO THE LIBRARY CATALOG	GET LESS THAN 1 THOUSAND SEARCH RESULTS
FIND AN EBOOK	FIND A PDF FOR A SCHOLARLY ARTICLE	FREE SPACE	FIND RESOURCES ABOUT A FOREIGN COUNTRY	FIND AN IMAGE OR PIECE OF ARTWORK
FIND A CURRENT NEWS ARTICLE	GET MORE THAN 2 MILLION SEARCH RESULTS	FIND A MAGAZINE ARTICLE	FIND SOMETHING PUBLISHED IN 2016	EMAIL AN ARTICLE WITH AN MLA CITATION
CHECK YOUR SEARCH HISTORY	LIMIT YOUR SEARCH TO FULL TEXT ONLY	FIND AN ARTICLE USING THE ORANGE "FIND FULL TEXT" BUTTON	LIMIT THE PUBLICATION DATE TO THE LAST 5 YEARS	FIND AN ARTICLE WITH HTML FULL- TEXT