

# Good searching – playing the theoretical ballgame

Prof Ina Fourie

Department of Information Science, University of Pretoria

[ina.fourie@up.ac.za](mailto:ina.fourie@up.ac.za)

(012) 420-5216



Once upon a time... .... Who is good enough to play?



# Once upon a time... .... Who is good enough to play?



**Reference interviews**

**Search techniques**

**Database structures**

**Database scope**

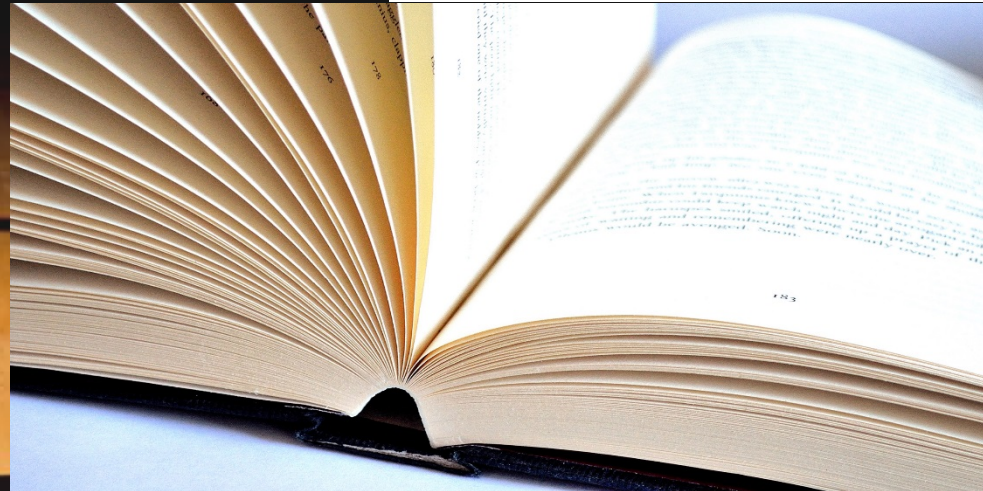
**Policies**

**Indexes and indexing; fields, filtering**

**Vocabulary tools**

**Display of results**

# Analytical vs browsing



Is this really what you need?

**ASK**



**Visceral**  
**Conscious**  
**Formal**  
**Compromised**

**Johari Window**

**GAP**

Words... vocabulary... subject domain

Aboutness, Isness

The actor has spoken

PURPOSE



I am searching



Vocabulary,  
thesauri,  
wikipedia



Comprehensiveness /  
exhaustive

Information horizons

Information fields

**Systematic, informed  
choices**

# Recall & precision

- **All there is**

- OR, subject fields, different information resources

- **Exactly what you want**

- AND, most specific field(s), best information resource



# Novelty

- If you use a variety of information resources.... More overlap
  - But it might be worth the effort



# Different tricks... Still valid



**Building block approach – each concept separately**

**Most specific topic first**

**Brief / quick & dirty**

**Different pairs**

**Citation pearl growing**

**... Berrypicking**

**Iterative**

# Berrypicking (Marcia Bates)

- Tracing references & reading lists
- Finding a good publication/citation – citation database
- Find a highly useful journal(s) – work through table of contents
- Browse broad topic/discipline
- Relevant author... more publications



# Relevance

- **System, topic, situational.... dynamic**
- **Pertinence**
- **Purpose**

# Don't get me started on models of information seeking/information behaviour

- **Wilson**
- **Kuhlthau**
- **Ellis**
- **Byström & Järvelin**
- **Leckie, Pettigrew & Sylvain**

## ... and theories

- **Self-efficacy**
- **Affordance...**



... and me...



**How did I learn the  
ballgame?**

Thank you for your time

