Good searching – playing the theoretical ballgame

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

GAP

Johari Window
Words... vocabulary... subject domain

Aboutness, Isness

The actor has spoken

I am searching

Vocabulary, thesauri, wikipedia

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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...
How did I learn the ballgame?
Thank you for your time