Lesson Name: Database Candy Bowls

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Course/Level: First Year

Topic: The difference between Google, Google Scholar, and Library

resources Learning Objectives:

- Understand the differences between results found and access in a Google search, Google Scholar search, and Library Quick Search (or academic database)
- Explain the varying levels of credibility and accessibility of search results

Materials Needed:

- Three dishes filled with candy:
    - Google: one accessible dish filled with generic candy
    - Google Scholar: one dish with limited accessibility (partially taped over) with a mix of mostly generic and some brand name candy
    - Library resources: one accessible dish with mostly brand name candy and some generic candy

Activities:

- Start class with three candy bowls at the classroom entrance
    - Bowl 1 has lots of generic, low-quality candy (miscellaneous gumballs, smarties, tootsie rolls, etc.) and a few good pieces of candy (brand name chocolate, skittles). The bowl is also completely full. This bowl will demonstrate search results from Google.
    - Bowl 2 has some low-quality candy and lots of good candy. Bowl 2 is also more difficult to get to in some way. This can be by putting tape over the bowl, putting a sign out saying "$5 per piece," or putting something heavy on top of the bowl. This bowl demonstrates Google Scholar.
    - Bowl 3 is easy to access has almost exclusively good candy, but should be less full than the other two bowls. This bowl represents search results from a Library's database or discovery layer.
- When it comes time in your lesson plan to talk about why it's useful to use Library databases, rather than Google (bowl 1) or Google Scholar (bowl 2), ask students which bowl they got their candy out of and why they made that choice.
- Points to highlight:
    - Sometimes what you want IS in Google. For lots of research things like government websites and opinion-based blogs are appropriate sources.
    - Google Scholar has a lot of great stuff, but it's not all accessible. Opportunity to talk about paywalls, open access journals, and the publishing process (why can we access manuscripts or preprints for free, but not a finished publication?)
    - The Library database has lots of good stuff, a nice variety, is easily accessible, and is free to students, staff, and faculty.