Web Searches

The Internet has billions of Web pages available to you. The problem is finding what you want. You can locate information using **search engines** (keyword search) or **directories** (choose from a list of general topics and keep branching downward until you reach the specific topic of interest).

Complete the following Web search and record the number of hits.

1. In Google search, type **Paul Simon**. How many hits match? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This shows all sites with Paul and Simon.

2. Type **quotation marks around your search term**, and click **Search.**  How many hits? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ . The quotation marks tell Google that you only want to see the terms together. Note the reduced number.

3. Click the **Advanced Search link** (settings). This enables you to narrow your search by indicating words that you do not want to appear on the pages and words that must appear on the pages.

4. Type **Democrat** in the all these words box, and type **music** in the none of these words box. How many hits? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Links show pages containing both Democrat and Paul Simon, but not music.

5. Click **Advanced Search again**. Add **candidate** to the all these words box, and add **singer** and **songwriter** to none of these words box. Make sure you leave a space between the words in each box. How many hits? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Click **Advanced Search again**. Click the arrow on the right of the Language box and click **English**. Click Google Search. How may hits? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. This restricts the language on the Web pages to English. Notice that the number of pages is reduced. The search can be further refined but the majority of linked pages will deal with former Democratic presidential candidate Paul Simon.

Boolean Search Terms

Boolean terms – named after 19th century mathematician George Boole – include the words **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT**. These words are used to filter information in a search and are used in one form or another in nearly all search engines.