

# SIRS Discoverer® • Student Workbook



## Middle School Edition

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## **SIRS Discoverer • Student Workbook**

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# Worksheet One: Subject Tree Branches

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**To do research, you must first become familiar with the database you are using.**

You will learn to navigate the Subject Tree in order to find the articles you want to use. Keep in mind that many branches will lead to the same article. So if you come up with the same article titles while searching different branches, don't be surprised!

**The first branch you navigate will look like this:**

PEOPLE > Explorers > articles

1. Select the subject PEOPLE. Notice the Subject Tree topics listed on the left.
2. Select the Subject Tree topic Explorers. Notice the article titles.
3. Choose two article titles that interest you. Write the titles exactly as they appear on the screen.

a. \_\_\_\_\_  
b. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Click the Home button.

**The next branch you navigate will look like this:**

SCIENCE > Medical Science > treatments & cures > article

5. Select the subject SCIENCE. Notice the Subject Tree topics listed on the left.
6. Select the Subject Tree topic Medical Science. Notice the subtopics and article titles.
7. Select the Subject Tree subtopic treatments & cures. Notice that you only see article titles now.
8. Choose one article title that interests you. Write the title exactly as it appears on the screen in the space provided.

\_\_\_\_\_

**You have just completed a full Subject Tree Browse.**

# Worksheet Two: Subject Tree Branches

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**To explore the SIRS Discoverer database, you will navigate Subject Tree branches.**

1. Look at the Browse Subjects section. Choose one of the 10 subjects to explore and write it in the space provided.

Ex: Science \_\_\_\_\_

**Select that subject to view related Subject Tree topics.**

2. Choose one Subject Tree topic that interests you and write it in the space provided.

Ex: Geography & Geology \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the topic you wrote in question 2 to view related subtopics.**

3. Do you see Subject Tree subtopics? \_\_Yes \_\_No

4. If you said YES, choose one subtopic that interests you and write it in the space provided.

Ex: bodies of water \_\_\_\_\_

5. Are there article titles listed? \_\_Yes \_\_No

6. If you said YES, choose one article title that interests you and write it in the space provided.

**If you chose a subtopic for question 4, select it now to view the list of articles. Otherwise, go to question 8.**

7. You will see only article titles now. Choose one article title that interests you and write it below.

Ex: "Water Woes" \_\_\_\_\_

**Retrace your steps by filling in the blanks.**

8. Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Tree Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Tree Subtopic or Article Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Article Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Ex: SCIENCE > Geography & Geology > bodies of water > "Water Woes"

# Worksheet Three: Subject Tree Browsing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Think of a general subject for a research report and write it below.**

\_\_\_\_\_

1. Look at the SIRS Discoverer Browse Subjects section on the home page. Write a subject that might contain articles about your research subject. \_\_\_\_\_

**Select that subject to view related Subject Tree topics.**

2. What are two topics that might contain articles about your research subject?

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

**Select the topic you chose for question 2a to view related subtopics.**

3. Do you see subtopics?  Yes  No

Do you see article titles?  Yes  No

4. What is one subtopic OR one article title that fits your research subject? \_\_\_\_\_

**Now select the topic you chose for question 2b to view related subtopics.**

5. Do you see subtopics?  Yes  No

Do you see article titles?  Yes  No

6. What is one subtopic OR one article title that fits your research subject? \_\_\_\_\_

**If you did not choose any subtopics for questions 4 or 6, skip to question 9.  
Otherwise, answer questions 7 and 8.**

7. Choose one subtopic from your response to either question 4 or 6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Select that subtopic to view the list of articles.**

8. What is one article title that fits your research subject? \_\_\_\_\_

**Finally, make three Subject Tree branches for your research subject.**

9. Retrace your steps by filling in the blanks.

	Subject	Subject TreeTopic	Subtopic/Article	Article
A.	i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
B.	i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
C.	i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____

# Worksheet Four: Subject Tree Browsing

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Perform a complete Subject Tree Browse. Begin by choosing a research subject.

Your goal is to find three articles that will help you write a research report.

1. Research subject: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Find two of the 10 subjects that might contain information on your research subject.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Open those subjects, one at a time, and list up to two Subject Tree topics for each that might contain information on your research subject.

### Subject

### Subject Tree Topic

a. i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

b. i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Open those topics, one at a time, and list up to two subtopics for each that might contain information on your research subject. If you cannot find any subtopics that relate to your research subject, find articles that relate to it and write up to two article titles. If you see appropriate subtopics and articles, choose one of each.

### Subject

### Subject Tree Topic

### Subtopic/Article

a. i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

b. i. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

ii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

iii. \_\_\_\_\_

continued...

## Worksheet Four (continued)

5. Complete your Subject Tree branches by opening the subtopics, one at a time, and writing one article title for each that relates to your research subject. If you selected an article title instead of a subtopic for any Subject Tree branch, that branch is complete.

Subject	Subject Tree Topic	Subtopic/Article	Article
a. i. _____		iii. _____	iv. _____
	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
		iii. _____	iv. _____
b. i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
		iii. _____	iv. _____
		iii. _____	iv. _____

6. Select three of the articles above that most closely relate to your research subject. Write them in Subject Tree branch form below.

Subject	Subject Tree Topic	Subtopic/Article	Article
a. i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
b. i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____
c. i. _____	ii. _____	iii. _____	iv. _____

# Worksheet Five: Keyword Searches

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Keyword Search helps you find articles by using certain words in the database.**

**Select the Keyword Search option from below the SIRS Discoverer search box.**

1. Your research subject is *Pollution around the world*. Enter this keyword: pollution.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Your research subject is *How to protect the environment*. Clear the search field, then enter these keywords: *environment AND protect*.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Your research subject is *Famous basketball players*. Clear the search field, then enter these keywords: *basketball AND famous AND players*.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Your research subject is *The solar system*. Clear the search field, then enter these keywords using AND in between each word: *solar system AND sun AND planets*

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Here are some other Keyword Searches for you to try. Enter each word or two-word phrase in the Search box.

Be sure to select the correct linking word (**AND**, **OR**, or **NOT**) between them. Phrases must be enclosed in quotation marks to ensure that multiple words appearing next to one another in a specified order will be found within the article text.

“African American”

“African American” **OR** “Black American”

girls

girls **AND** sports

girls **AND** sports **AND** school

cats

cats **OR** dogs

cats **OR** dogs **OR** pets

movies

movies **NOT** television

movies **NOT** television **AND** “United States”

careers

careers **AND** science

careers **AND** science **NOT** doctors

Chinese

Chinese **OR** Mexican

Chinese **OR** Mexican **AND** food

heart

heart **AND** exercise

heart **AND** exercise **OR** sports

computers

computers **AND** sports

computers **AND** sports **AND** science

war

war **AND** America

war **AND** America **AND** Russia



# Worksheet Six: Keywords & Keyword Searching

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Keyword Search helps you find articles by using certain words in the database.**

1. Pretend you are researching the subject *How exercise keeps your heart healthy*.
2. Brainstorm! Think of as many words or two-word phrases as you can that relate to that subject.

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3. Choose three of the words or two-word phrases above and enter them in the space below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Perform a Keyword Search using those words. Be sure to put quotation marks around a two-word phrase (i.e. "heart attack").

4. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Now choose a research subject of your own: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Brainstorm! Think of as many words or two-word phrases as you can that relate to that subject.

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7. Choose three of the words or two-word phrases above and enter them in the space below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Perform a Keyword Search using those words.

8. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_

# Worksheet Seven: Keyword Searching

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Following are some Keyword Searches for you to try.

## Exercise #1

**Research subject:** *Why dogs and cats are good pets* **Keywords:** *pet\* AND (dog\* OR cat\*)*

1. Enter the keywords in the Search box.
2. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Search? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Write three article titles that interest you.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise #2

**Research subject:** *Why animals other than dogs and cats are good pets* **Keywords:** *pet\* NOT (dog\* OR cat\*)*

4. Enter the keywords in the Search box.
5. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Write three article titles that interest you.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with your first search?  MORE  FEWER

## Exercise #3:

**Research subject:** *Why just dogs are good pets* **Keywords:** *pet\* AND (dog\* NOT cat\*)*

8. Enter the keywords in the Search box.
9. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Write three article titles that interest you.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with Exercise #1?  MORE  FEWER
12. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with Exercise #2?  MORE  FEWER

# Worksheet Eight: Keyword Searching

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Practice Keyword Searching by choosing your own research subject and linking words.**

1. Choose a research subject: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Brainstorm! Think of three words or two-word phrases that relate to your subject.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Think of the best way to use the linking words **AND**, **OR** and **NOT** to search for the exact articles you want. Write your keywords below.

First word: \_\_\_\_\_

**AND OR NOT** \_\_\_\_\_

**AND OR NOT** \_\_\_\_\_

4. Click on the Keyword option. Enter the keywords in the Search box.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Write up to three article titles related to your research subject.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

6. Try it again using the same keywords but with a different combination of AND, OR and NOT.

First word: \_\_\_\_\_

**AND OR NOT** \_\_\_\_\_

**AND OR NOT** \_\_\_\_\_

**continued...**

## Worksheet Eight (continued)

7. Enter the keywords in the Search box. What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search?

8. Write up to three article titles related to your research subject.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

9. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with your first search?      \_\_ MORE \_\_ FEWER

10. Try it again using the same keywords but with a different combination of linking words.

First word: \_\_\_\_\_

**AND OR NOT** \_\_\_\_\_

**AND OR NOT** \_\_\_\_\_

11. Enter the keyword in the Search box.

What is the total number of articles you found that satisfies your Keyword Search? \_\_\_\_\_

12. Write up to three article titles related to your research subject.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

13. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with your first search?      \_\_ MORE \_\_ FEWER

14. Did you find more or fewer articles with this search than with your second search?      \_\_ MORE \_\_ FEWER

# Worksheet Nine: Subject Search

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject Search is most useful when you have a specific research topic in mind and you want to use a subject index to quickly locate articles related to that topic.**

1. From the main screen, select the "Subject" option below the search box. When you type the subject heading term in the search box, the database searches the list of subject headings (not articles) on SIRS Discoverer.
2. Your research topic is *Presidents*. Enter the term *Presidents* in the search box. Then click the search button. How many *magazine* articles did you find that begin with the term *Presidents*? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Select an article that may be of interest to you. Click on it to view the full text of the article. Write the title of the article you selected exactly as it appears on the screen: \_\_\_\_\_

**You have just completed a simple Subject search.**

For a new Subject search, go back to the Search box.

You can enter more than one word to find a subject heading. Entering a phrase, however, will narrow your search. Be sure to put quotation marks around phrases.

Try these words and phrases for some successful Subject searches:

*animals*

*fishing*

*obesity*

*astronauts*

*earth*

*dinosaurs*

*insects*

*sun*

*earthquakes*

*explorers*

*brain*

*smoking*

*fat*

*disasters*

*ocean*

*"American eagle"*

*"Black history"*

*"red blood cells"*

*"recycling centers"*

*"cancer causing agents"*

# Worksheet Ten: Research Fact Sheet (Subject Tree Search)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Research subject: \_\_\_\_\_

**Perform a Subject Tree Browse to find an article relating to your research subject.**

1. Look at the Browse Subjects section. Write the Subject Tree branch you followed to find the article.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Subject Tree Topic</b>	<b>Subtopic/Article</b>	<b>Article</b>
_____	_____	_____	_____

2. Read the article. List three facts you learned about your research subject. Write complete sentences.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Worksheet Eleven: Research Fact Sheet (Keyword Search)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Research subject: \_\_\_\_\_

**Perform a Keyword Search to find an article relating to your research subject.**

1. Write the Keyword Search words and chose a linking word to use in finding the article.

First word: \_\_\_\_\_

**AND OR NOT** \_\_\_\_\_

**AND OR NOT** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Article title: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read the article. List three facts you learned about your research subject. Write complete sentences.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Worksheet Twelve: Research Report Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Research subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of report: \_\_\_\_\_

Report: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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Citation:

### EXAMPLE:

Maldarelli, Claire. "Great Migrations." *SuperScience*. May/June 2015: 10+. *SIRS Discoverer*. Web. 1 Jul. 2015.