When to use a Power Search

Power Search allows you to perform more complicated searching in the online catalog. In Power Search two or more types of searches can be combined to find materials. For example, a Power Search can be done to combine two subject headings or to combine an author and a book title.

How to do a Power Search

The first step to performing a Power Search is to open your web browser to www.carlow.edu/library and click on the Find Books box.

Next, click on the Online Catalog link. This will take you directly to the Quick Search screen.

Beneath the Quick Search box click on the link for Power Search.

Power Search can combine search elements using Boolean operators (see last page for more about Boolean operators). You can combine word or phrase, author, title, subject, and series searches.

In this example two terms were entered and words or phrase was selected from the drop down menu.

These words are joined with the Boolean operator and.

This requires that both words be present in the book or video record.

When you have finished entering search terms, click the Search button.
After clicking the Search button a search results screen will appear. The number of titles found in your search will be indicated.

To see more information on a particular item, click on the Title:

Below is a complete record for the book:

```
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title of book</th>
<th>Author of book</th>
<th>Call number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women direct Shakespeare in America : productions from the 1990s</td>
<td>Taylor, Nancy, 1942-</td>
<td>PR2195 .T795 2005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
```

Grace Library owns 19 books/videos on this topic

**Power Search Hints**

In the example above a Power Search was done using two “words or phrases”. In the Power Search window other types of searches can be combined by selecting different options from the drop down menu. For example, some of the more common search options are:

- An *author* search, which can be performed by entering an author's name, selecting *author* from the drop down menu and clicking the *search* button.

- A *title* search, which can be performed by entering part or all of a book/video title, selecting *title* from the drop down menu and clicking the *search* button.

Select type of search from this drop down menu in the Power Search window.
A **subject** search can be performed by entering a Library of Congress subject heading selecting *subject* from the drop down menu and clicking the *search* button. Subject headings can be found in the book or video *Catalog Record* in the online catalog or by using the maroon Library of Congress subject heading volumes located at the Reference Desk.

A **series** search can be performed by entering all or part of a book/video series title (such as *Opposing Viewpoints*), selecting *series* from the drop down menu and clicking on the *search* button.

**Boolean Operators**

Boolean operators are words that a searcher uses to tell a computer how to relate their search terms when performing a search. The three most often used operators are: **and**, **or**, and **not**.

**and:** If you enter more than one term in a search and join them together with the word **and**, you will get results that have both (or all) your terms, not one or the other. Both (or all) terms must be present in each of the resulting citations.

**or:** Joining two words with the word **or** will bring up records containing either one or both of the terms entered. Searching for **john or mary** will bring up all records containing only "john", all records containing only "mary" and all containing both names. This operator is useful when doing a search containing synonyms, such as a search for **marriage or wedlock**. Using the **or** to join search terms will increase your search results.

**not:** Using the word **not** permits you to exclude records containing a certain term. For example, if you want article citations on "blood," but do not want to see citations on "transfusion," you could enter **blood not transfusion**. The results would not contain any citations with the word "transfusion" in them.