

Library OneSearch Keyword Searching Strategies

Developing Your Search

<p>Rule #1: Choose the most important words that describe your topic. These become your search terms, or <i>keywords</i>.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Example:</i> Topic: What effects does the use of social media have on the lives of students? <u>contains these keywords:</u> social media; students; effect</p>
<p>Rule #2: Put quotation marks around common phrases to ensure that the entire phrase appears in any results.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Examples:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ "social media" ◦ "online privacy" ◦ "No Child Left Behind"

Tips for Revising Your Search

<p><u>Narrowing</u></p> <p><i>Make your search terms or topic more specific to get more focused results.</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Too many results</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: right;"><u>Broadening</u></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Use fewer words or less specific search terms to get a larger pool of results.</i></p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Too few results</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;">Try Synonyms</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"social media" "college students" <u>effects</u></i></p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mining a Record</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>In the record for relevant item, browse for additional search terms to try. Be sure to check the title, abstract, and subject terms!</i></p>