Advanced Search Techniques

Make your research better, faster, and easier by using these techniques when searching the Library.

Remember that research is a process, so don't be afraid to experiment with different combinations of words and techniques!

Keyword Searching
Search only for the most important words or phrases in your topic.

Library databases work differently from Google.

Take your research question and pull out the most important words:

“What factors are influencing inflation rates in Asia?”

Synonyms
Include synonyms and other related words in your search.

Using synonyms or related words will increase your search results.

Boolean Searching: Using AND, OR, or NOT
Use AND to find fewer results
Use OR to find more results
Use NOT to exclude results

We can look at this using a Venn Diagram:

inflation AND Asia
China OR Asia
China NOT ceramics

*use NOT sparingly, to remove irrelevant results

Exact Phrasing
Use double quote marks (”) around multiple words to find results with those exact words right next to each other, in that exact order.

Truncation
Use an asterisk (*) at the end of a root word to search for words with the same or similar meaning. This will give you results with multiple endings and spellings.

Search for the root: globali*