

Search Tips for Library Databases



- ✓ Identify what kind of sources you need.
- ✓ Start in Research Databases by Subject or QuickSearch.
- ✓ For overviews look in Reference databases such as *Credo Reference*, which contains all reference books or *Research Starters* in Quick Search.
- ✓ Type keywords in basic search box.
- ✓ Add more keywords to narrow search.
- ✓ Limit to full text and/or peer-reviewed, publication date, source type, geography, or other filters when needed.
- ✓ Use smaller, specialized databases like *Social Science Database* when you need journal sources.
- ✓ Use Issues/Controversies databases for argumentative topics.
- ✓ Use quotation marks around phrases.
- ✓ Try AND, OR, & NOT if needed.
- ✓ Sort results by relevance or publication date if needed.
- ✓ Try an Advanced Search option when needed.
- ✓ Use a print-friendly option when available.
- ✓ Use a variety of sources for research papers—reference books, magazines, newspapers, journals.
- ✓ Ask a library staff person for help.

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