Searching for information: video script

Once you have organised a search strategy you can apply it to relevant search tools such as library databases. Scholarly information, which includes peer reviewed journal articles, is best found using Library databases.

You will need to become familiar with searching these in order to be successful throughout your university studies.

Some good databases to start searching are:

- Scopus
- Academic search premier

These are multidisciplinary databases which cover a broad range of subject areas. Another key databases you should become familiar with is:

- CINAHL

This database covers nursing and allied health literature.

Depending on your research question you may need to also try searching other databases. Access library databases from the library homepage, or relevant subject guide using your username and password.

Let’s start by searching Academic Premier Complete. This database sits on the platform EbscoHost.

I can enter my search strategy here. Notice I am adding each different concept on a separate line which is connected using AND.

For any phrases use double quotes to make sure the database searches for it as an exact phrase.

Now I can add my similar concepts (synonyms) using the connector OR. These can be entered on the same line.

I can also add my truncation, using the star * (asterisk symbol) to find safe and safety.

I don’t have many results but some of these may be useful.

I can use the left menu to limit my search to articles from peer reviewed only.

I can go into each of the article records to read the abstracts and see what subject terms are being used. This may help me revise my search further.

I also have the option to print, email or save the record.

I can see that some article have the full-text available to read and others do not.
Notice this article has an abstract, author affiliations, clear introduction, statistics and diagrams in the main text, a conclusion and references. These make it scholarly.

I can also select the Find it buttons to try and find out if the library has the full-text online.

From this page I can see that the article is available in another library database. However, it is an editorial so not what I want.

If you cannot find the full-text article try double checking by putting the title in the Library catalogue or Google Scholar. However, we do not hold the full-text for all articles.

I am going to revise my search to see if I can find more.

I could also remove a concept such as the countries I am looking for to see if I can find information in general about the cholera and the quality of drinking water.

I could broaden my search by searching for water in general not just drinking water.

Or, I might want to try removing the quality line instead as this might be focusing my search too much. Maybe I should try splitting the phrases “drinking water” and “potable water”.

I can also easily run my search in other databases on the EbscoHost platform like CINAHL or AgeLine.

Now I am going to apply my search to another database: Scopus. Even though the search screen looks different searching in this database is very similar.

The truncation symbol in Scopus is also an asterisk *.

Notice, once again, I am using double quotes for phrases.

In this database the results sort by date as the default. I could change this so they sort by Relevance.

There is no full-text in Scopus but many of the Find it buttons will link you through to the full-text article which sits elsewhere in the Library’s collection.

The article record shows other terms that might be useful to explore further.

I can also print or email results to myself under the More...button.

Remember your search may continually evolve. If you cannot find what you want try amending your search or searching another database.