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Smart Searching 2: Searching for Topics Using Databases

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At the end of this session you will know how to:

- 1. Identify when to use databases and their main features**
- 2. Break down your research question into concepts and prepare your research question for searching on a database**
- 3. Discover database search techniques**
- 4. Login**
- 5. Run a search**
- 6. Save & export results**
- 7. Use controlled vocabulary if needed**
- 8. Find further help**



What are databases and when should I use them? https://youtu.be/kW_bFa5j5pY



You generally use a database to find out more about a *topic*.

If you are looking for a specific article/PDF, then Google Scholar or Stella Search with our Lean Library browser extension are more appropriate to find it – you don't go to a database!



The Library has access to 900+ databases

Databases contain comprehensive, quality-assured, reliable academic information, much of which is peer-reviewed

The quality of the information is reflected in the price that we pay for them!



Sometimes you will be given a question (such as for an essay); sometimes you will need to come up with a “research question” yourself (such as for a thesis). See our HITS presentation *Defining Your Research Question*

Either way, you will need to divide your question into parts in order to search for information on it



A very common way of doing this is by PICO – Population; Intervention; Comparator; Outcome. But there are variations of this (adding Time; or Study Type) and completely different approaches such as SPIDER (Sample; Phenomenon of Interest; Design, Evaluation; Research Type) which was developed to create effective search strategies of qualitative and mixed-methods research - more specific than PICO

More details in our *Doing a Systematic Review* LibGuide under *Step 1: Your Research Question, Frameworks and Creating a Protocol*



Research question:

What is the role of education in promoting positive mental health for teenagers?

Exercise 1:

What are the main concepts in this question?

Take a minute to write down your ideas...



**What is the role of
education in promoting
positive mental health for
teenagers?**



**What is the role of
education in promoting
positive mental health for
teenagers?**



**What is the role of
education in promoting
positive mental health for
teenagers?**



For each concept start building a string of keywords – different terms meaning the same thing

Let's take **teenagers**:

Teen, teens, teenager, teenagers, adolescent, adolescents, adolescence, youth, "young people"...

Jot down synonyms for the two other main concepts:

Education

Positive Mental Health

Education:

Education, educated, instruct, instruction/s, program/s, programme/s, course/s, class/es...

Positive Mental Health:

Wellbeing, well being, positive, positivity, mental health...



Finding relevant databases and getting started <https://youtu.be/S1OTJTbfBy0>



Stella Search

Books & More

Journals

Digital Collections

Search for articles, books, e-books, journal titles, and more

GO

My Library Account



Book a Group Study Room



Getting to know your Library - video for new students



Admissions



Avoiding Plagiarism



Borrowing & Renewing



Databases & E-Books



EndNote



FAQs



MyReadingList@TCD



Off Campus Access



Subject Librarians



Welcome to the Library





Nearly all our purchased databases will need you to use your Trinity username and password to access them off campus

A few require you to also register AS WELL to get access (SciFinder, Financial Times) – the Trinity login isn't enough

Nearly all will let you create a voluntary profile within them, to save searches and results



[Library Home](#) | [Return to Stella Search](#) |

Off Campus Access to Library Electronic Resources

Access to the Library's subscribed databases and e-journals is available to Trinity College students and staff only by authenticating here with their College username and password.

Username

Password

Login

For more information about this service, see the [Off Campus Access](#) page.

If you experience any difficulties logging in to this service, please contact [IT Service Desk](#).

Questions relating to electronic resource subscriptions should be directed to [the Library](#) directly.

Remember: Keep your password secure. Disclosing your password to others can give them access to your personal resources including your email, and online student record. Please do not include your password in any correspondence with the Library.

Access to the Trinity College Data network and associated IT resources is granted only to authorised persons for the purpose of approved College activities. Activities may be monitored for administrative and security purposes. Use of the College network and resources implies consent to such monitoring and acceptance of all published College policies including the "IT and Network Code of Conduct" and "The College IT Security Policy".

PROFILE LOGINS – EBSCO, WEB OF SCIENCE AND PROQUEST DATABASES



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New Search Thesaurus Indexes **Sign In** Folder Preferences Languages ▾

EBSCOhost Searching: ERIC | [Choose Databases](#)

Select a Field (optional) ▾ Search

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ [Clear](#) ?

AND ▾ Select a Field (optional) ▾ (+) (-)

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

Search Options

https://www.webofscience-com.elib.tcd.ie/wos/woscc/basic-search

Clarivate

Web of Science™ Search Marked List History Saved Searches and Alerts

Sign In **Register**

DOCUMENTS RESEARCHERS

Search in: Web of Science Core Collection ▾ Editions: All ▾

DOCUMENTS CITED REFERENCES STRUCTURE

All Fields ▾ Example: liver disease india singh

ProQuest Access provided by TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

ERIC Basic Search Advanced Search About | Change databases

Enter search terms...

Peer reviewed ⓘ Search tips



The main things to know about are:

- 1. “Boolean operators” – AND and OR**
- 2. Phrases**
- 3. Truncation and proximity**
- 4. Fields**
- 5. Limits**

More advanced:

- 6. Controlled vocabulary (more later!)**



These are all explained in our
Writing a Literature Review
LibGuide – specifically, the page
on ***Developing a Search Strategy***



AND is used between different concepts and searches (*education AND well being*); **OR** is used between synonyms or similar concepts (*teenagers OR youths*). **AND** narrows your search; **OR** gives you more!

Phrases look for those exact words in that exact order, next to each other – they can't have words in between – “*well being*” for example

Proximity is like this but lets you have a defined amount of words between your terms, and generally have them in any order. Not available in all databases!

Truncation (almost always an asterisk *) allows you to use a stem to find words that have that at the start – *teen** gets *teen, teens, teenage, teenager, teenagers...*



A field is an area in a source (e.g., a journal article or book chapter) such as the title, abstract, year of publication, and author. There are normally lots of these for any record, some derived from the source itself, some added by the database after studying the source

Limits - also called *filters* - are restrictions on your search that can be applied by making selections within the database, such as stating the articles need to be in English, or published after a certain date

DATABASES MAIN FEATURES



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New Search MeSH 2022 Publications Indexes Sign In Folder Preferences Languages Contact your TCD Subject Librarian (via subject list) Help

EBSCOhost Searching: MEDLINE | Choose Databases

Profile login

Controlled vocabulary

Search

Fields – Title, Abstract etc.

Connectors (Boolean operators)

Select a Field (optional)

AND

Select a Field (optional)

AND

Select a Field (optional)

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History

Search Options

Reset

Search Modes and Expanders

Search modes ?

☒ Boolean/Phrase

☐ Find all my search terms

☐ Find any of my search terms

☐ SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Apply related words

☐

Apply equivalent subjects

☒

Limit your results

Scholarly (Peer Reviewed) Journals

☐

Linked Full Text

☐

Publication

Date of Publication

Start month: Month Start year: — End month: Month

Limits



Adolescents

Teen/s, teenage, teenager/s, adolescent/s, adolescence, secondary, post primary, youth/s, young people...

Positive Mental Health

Wellbeing, well being, positive, positivity, mental health...

Education

Education, educated, instruct, instruction/s, program/s, programme/s, course/s, class/es...



Let's use Boolean operators (specifically OR), phrases and truncation to get this ready for a database...

TOP TIP! Do this in Word, as part of recording your “search strategy”. You will almost certainly have to document this for longer projects such as theses. You can then paste the lines into the database



Adolescents

**teen* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth*
OR "young people"**

Positive Mental Health

wellbeing OR "well being" OR positiv* OR "mental health"

Education

educat* OR instruct* OR program* OR course* OR class*

MORE TERMS! teach* OR student* OR study* OR school*...



As mentioned before, these different lines are called “search strings”. The whole thing is called a “search strategy”



Whether you use all your strings depends on the database, and how many results you get

In the multidisciplinary database Web of Science, you would use all three strings (at least)


But in the education database ERIC, you probably wouldn't use the "education" string as *all the articles in ERIC are from education journals*. If you get too many results, you may need to use another string to narrow down the results, like looking for the terms "promotion" and "role" and variants... and/or use appropriate limits



**What is the role of
education in promoting
positive mental health for
teenagers?**

YOUR FIRST SEARCH...





OR selected

Search
pasted into
top search
box

Searching: **ERIC** | [Choose Databases](#)

en* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth*

OR ▾

lolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth*

AND ▾

Search
pasted into
second
search box

Select a Field (optional) ▾

TI Title ▾

AB Abstract ▾

Search

[Hit](#) SEARCH!

+ -

[Basic Search](#) | [Advanced Search](#) | [Search History](#)



Search result screens can look **very** complicated. Don't worry if you don't understand everything there!

Refine Results

Current Search

Boolean/Phrase:
S7 AND S8

Expanders
Apply equivalent subjects

Limit To

☐ Full Text
☐ References Available
☐ Peer Reviewed

From: 1990 To: 2022
Publication Date

Show More

Source Types

☒ All Results
☐ Academic Journals (836)
☐ Magazines (15)

Subject: Thesaurus Term

Subject

Publication

Publisher

Search Results: 1 - 50 of 854

Relevance Page Options Share

1. Adolescent Psychological Assistance Treatment Strategy Integrating Home-School Coordination and Network Information.

By: Li, Yaling. Occupational Therapy International. 7/14/2022, p1-11. 11p. 6 Diagrams, 1 Chart, 2 Graphs. DOI: 10.1155/2022/6393139.

Subjects: SOCIAL support; COOPERATIVENESS; PARENTING; **MENTAL health** services; PARENTS; Residential **Mental Health** and Substance Abuse Facilities; Offices of **Mental Health** Practitioners (except Physicians); Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Hospitals; Other Individual and Family Services; MEDICAL care for **teenagers**

Show all 9 Images

HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (850KB)

2. Compounding inequalities: Adolescent psychosocial wellbeing and resilience among refugee and host communities in Jordan during the COVID-19 pandemic.

By: Jones, Nicola; Baird, Sarah; Abu Hamad, Bassam; Bhutta, Zulfiqar A.; Oakley, Erin; Shah, Manisha; Sajdi, Jude; Yount, Kathryn M. PLoS ONE. 2/2/2022, Vol. 17 Issue 2, p1-43. 43p. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0261773.

Subjects: COVID-19 pandemic; **TEENAGE** boys; **TEENAGERS**; EQUALITY; SOCIAL belonging; **TEENAGE** girls; SQUATTER settlements; JORDAN

HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (1.5MB)

3. Level playing field: young males, masculinity and mental wellbeing through sport.

By: Drummond, Murray; Wadham, Ben; Prichard, Ivanka; Elliott, Sam; Drummond, Claire; Crossman, Sarah. BMC Public Health. 4/14/2022, Vol. 22 Issue 1, p1-11. 11p. 2 Charts. DOI: 10.1186/s12889-022-13200-1.

HTML Full Text PDF Full Text (1.1MB)

MAKING IT EASIER FOR YOU... CHOOSE YOUR INTERFACE LANGUAGE



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[New Search](#) [Thesaurus](#) [Indexes](#) [Sign Out](#) [Folder](#) [Preferences](#) [Languages](#) [Contact your TCD Subject Librarian \(via subject list\)](#) [Help](#)

MY

Searching: **ERIC** | [Choose Databases](#)

Select a Field (optional) ▼

AND ▼

Select a Field (optional) ▼

AND ▼

Select a Field (optional) ▼

Search

[Clear](#) ?

+

−

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

Search Options

Search Modes and Expanders

Search modes ?

☒ Boolean/Phrase

☐ Find all my search terms

☐ Find any of my search terms

☐ SmartText Searching [Hint](#)

Apply related words

☐

Apply equivalent subjects

☒

Limit your results

Full Text

☐

Journal Name

ERIC Number

Peer Reviewed

☐

IES Funded

☐

Date Published

Start month:

Month ▼

 Start year: — End month:

Month ▼

 End year:

Journal or Document

Reset

English

(Portugal)

한국어

Slovenski

Deutsch

Português (Brasil)

ภาษาไทย

Slovenčina

Español

Русский

Tiếng Việt

Nederlands

Ελληνικά

Türkçe

Hrvatski

Svenska

Français

عربي

Čeština

فارسی

Italiano

简体中文

Bahasa Indonesia

Suomi

Magyar

繁體中文

עברית

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Polski

日本語

Română

Norsk

Português

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Accessibility feature in Gale Research Complete

"A Town of Many": Drama and Urban Heritage Landscapes as Mediums for Second Language Acquisition and Social Inclusion.



Authors: Konstantina Kalogirou, Christianne L. Fernee, Dewi Stamenkovic and Konstantinos P. Trimmis
Date: Nov. 2020



From: Global Education Review (Vol. 7, Issue 4)
Publisher: Mercy College



Document Type: Article
Length: 8,264 words

Accessibility toolbar with icons for font size (A- A+), text-to-speech (Listen), and other features. A dropdown menu is open showing options: "Translate Article" and "Set Interface Language".

social environments in which we find ourselves nowadays define who we are, then bedded in various relevant social communities in which we are acting, interacting, through our communications. In our case, teachers and learners change and ugh their daily practices, while they explore, interact, and embrace the already existing local Cultural Heritage of their new settings. This paper moves beyond textoriented approaches and towards cutting-edge trends in education and second language learning. A new global application is presented which utilizes the recording of urban heritage landscapes as mediums for second language acquisition and social inclusion. The methodology is based on the case study of a coproduced (between teachers and learners)

EXPLORE

More Like This

RESEARCHER CALLS FOR INCLUSION OF HERITAGE LANGUAGE IN TEACHER...
Indian eGov Newswire, May 7, 2014.

RESEARCHER CALLS FOR INCLUSION OF HERITAGE LANGUAGE IN TEACHER...
States News Service, May 5, 2014.

Is Learning a Standard Variety Similar to Learning a



If you have set up a profile, you can permanently save *searches* to rerun later, or individual *results* from within a search (or searches). If you don't login to a profile, these won't carry over to next time

You may need to export some or all of the results of a search in order to reference them, or to use in a wider project. How that is done depends on the database...



Let's look at this in a database:

- **Creating a personal account and logging in**
- **Using fields such as title and abstract**
- **Searching for one term**
- **Searching for multiple terms on the same topic using OR**
- **Searching for multiple terms on another topic using OR**
- **Combining searches on different topics using AND**
- **Limiting results**
- **Saving searches and results**
- **Exporting results**



Getting started with EBSCO databases <https://youtu.be/3FWJ8SO4bQc>



Some databases offer controlled vocabulary (also known as a thesaurus, subject terms, Medical Subject Headings (MeSH), or just subject headings) which organise the literature into particular subject categories. Think of them as like defined tags within the database

The value of using these in your search is that it might pick up more articles as it is a broader search – you don't need to have thought of *every* synonym. This is advised for more systematic searching e.g., if you are doing a dissertation, publishing a review, or writing an article

Not all databases have user-searchable subject headings – multidisciplinary ones like Web of Science do not

Not all subjects will exist within a database even if it uses subject headings!

CONTROLLED VOCABULARY (EBSCO EXAMPLE)



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New Search Thesaurus Indexes Sign In Folder Preferences Languages

Searching: ERIC | [Choose Databases](#)

DE "Adolescents" Search

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

Subjects This is now going to search for the descriptor (DE) in the subject field only for each record. Hit Search!

Browsing: ERIC -- Thesaurus

teenager Browse

☐ Term Begins With ☐ Term Contains ☒ Relevance Ranked

Page: Previous Next

Select term, then add to search using: OR Add

(Click term to display details.)

☐ [Adolescents](#)

Teenagers (1966-1980) Use [Adolescents](#)

Click on Thesaurus or whatever it is called (ProQuest databases – go to Advanced Search to see Thesaurus displayed)

Use the most likely keyword from your string for this concept

Tick the box for your term once you are happy with it. Click on ADD to get it ready for searching



DE "Adolescents" OR "Secondary Education"

DE "Well Being" OR DE "Mental Health" OR DE "Mental Health Programs"

COMBINE CONCEPT KEYWORDS AND THESAURUS TERMS WITH OR



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Search History/Alerts

[Print Search History](#) [Retrieve Searches](#) [Retrieve Alerts](#) [Save Searches / Alerts](#)

☐ Select / deselect all

Search with AND

Search with OR

Delete Searches




























Refresh Search Results

Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions
<input type="checkbox"/>	S4 S1 OR S2 OR S3	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (278,833) View Details Edit
<input type="checkbox"/>	S3 DE "Secondary Education"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (163,615) View Details Edit
<input type="checkbox"/>	S2 (DE "Adolescents")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (52,897) View Details Edit
<input type="checkbox"/>	S1 TI (teen* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth* OR "young people") OR AB (teen* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth* OR "young people")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (161,489) View Details Edit

...THEN COMBINE DIFFERENT CONCEPTS WITH AND



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<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search with AND	<input type="checkbox"/> Search with OR	<input type="button" value="Delete Searches"/>	<input type="button" value="Refresh Search Results"/>	
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options	Actions					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S9 S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (151,636)	 View Details	 Edit			
<input type="checkbox"/>	S8 DE "Mental Health Programs"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (3,405)	 View Details	 Edit			
<input type="checkbox"/>	S7 DE "Mental Health"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (13,685)	 View Details	 Edit			
<input type="checkbox"/>	S6 DE "Well Being"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (11,810)	 View Details	 Edit			
<input type="checkbox"/>	S5 TI (wellbeing OR "well being" OR positiv* OR "mental health") OR AB (wellbeing OR "well being" OR positiv* OR "mental health")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (145,234)	 View Details	 Edit			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S4 S1 OR S2 OR S3	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (278,833)	 View Details	 Edit			
<input type="checkbox"/>	S3 DE "Secondary Education"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (163,615)	 View Details	 Edit			
<input type="checkbox"/>	S2 (DE "Adolescents")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (52,897)	 View Details	 Edit			
<input type="checkbox"/>	S1 TI (teen* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth* OR "young people") OR AB (teen* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth* OR "young people")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	 View Results (161,489)	 View Details	 Edit			

TOO MANY RESULTS? ERIC EXAMPLE



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<input type="checkbox"/> Select / deselect all Search with AND Search with OR Delete Searches			Refresh Search Results		
Search ID#	Search Terms	Search Options			
<input type="checkbox"/> S12	S10 AND S11	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (3,414)	View Details	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S11	TI promot* OR AB promot*	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (90,910)	View Details	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S10	S4 AND S9	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (32,105)	View Details	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S5	S1 OR S2 OR S3	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (151,636)	View Details	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S8	DE "Mental Health Programs"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (8,607)	View Details	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S7	DE "Mental Health"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (13,685)	View Details	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S6	DE "Well Being"	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (11,810)	View Details	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S5	TI (wellbeing OR "well being" OR positiv* OR "mental health") OR AB (wellbeing OR "well being" OR positiv* OR "mental health")	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (145,234)	View Details	Edit
<input type="checkbox"/> S4	S1 OR S2 OR S3	Expanders - Apply equivalent subjects Search modes - Boolean/Phrase	View Results (278,833)	View Details	Edit

So... we narrow it down by adding in one of our secondary topics (promotion)

Just looking for material on mental health in adolescents in ERIC gives too many results

TOO MANY RESULTS? WEB OF SCIENCE EXAMPLE



Clear all history Delete

Type	Search Query and Results	Database	Results	Actions
Current session ^				
<input type="checkbox"/>	<div>Search</div> <div>Adding a “role” aspect makes it manageable</div> <div>teen* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth* OR "young people" (Topic) and wellbeing OR "well being" OR positiv* OR "mental health" (Topic) and educat* OR instruct* OR program* OR course* OR class* (Topic) and promot* (Topic) and role* (Topic)</div> <div>3:38 PM</div>	Web of Science Core Collection	1,990	<a>Show editions <a> <a> <a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<div>Search</div> <div>Still too many results with education + adolescents + mental health + promotion</div> <div>teen* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth* OR "young people" (Topic) and wellbeing OR "well being" OR positiv* OR "mental health" (Topic) and educat* OR instruct* OR program* OR course* OR class* (Topic) and promo* (Topic)</div> <div>3:37 PM</div>	Web of Science Core Collection	10,364	<a>Show editions <a> <a> <a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<div>Search</div> <div>In Web of Science we have far too many results with education + adolescents + mental health</div> <div>teen* OR adolescen* OR secondary OR "post primary" OR youth* OR "young people" (Topic) and wellbeing OR "well being" OR positiv* OR "mental health" (Topic) and educat* OR instruct* OR program* OR course* OR class* (Topic)</div> <div>3:37 PM</div>	Web of Science Core Collection	76,508	<a>Show editions <a> <a> <a>



For anything beyond the simplest piece of work, you will have to use multiple databases. We think you should always adopt a systematic approach to your searches – adapt the same strategy across all the ones you use – this is “systematic searching”

Having your search strings in Word makes it much easier

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER — MORE DATABASES



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Getting started with Web of Science
https://youtu.be/Bxphqdid_Oc



Getting started with ProQuest databases
<https://youtu.be/Gh8TKX55948>



Introduction

Lesson Navigation

Choose a section of particular interest, or follow the arrows to work through the entire lesson.



Where to Start



Build Your Syntax



Define Your Topic



Execute and Evaluate



Describe Your Topic



Quiz



Identify Your Sources



Acknowledgements

Access the menu on any slide



The All
Aboard
Searching
Systematically
tutorial



Your [Subject Librarian](#)

Our [HITS classes](#)

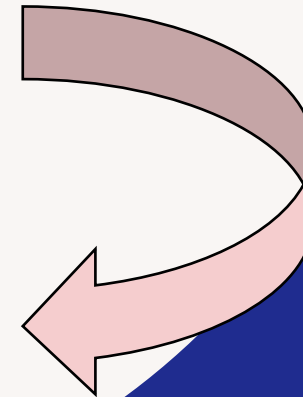
- Smart Searching 1 – finding full text using Google Scholar, Lean Library and Stella Search
- Defining Your Research Question
- Researching Your Literature Review
- EndNote for Beginners

Our [Guides & Tutorials page](#)

Our LibGuides

- [Writing a Literature Review](#)
- [Doing a Systematic Review](#)

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Thank You

Feel free to contact us with any queries:

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