NFCC
Library
Effective Search Strategies

Improve Your Database Search
The First Step

• Do a little “brainstorming”.
• Write down terms related to your topic.
• Are there terms you want to combine?
• Are there terms you want to eliminate?
• Do you want to search a particular database or do a multi-database search?
Practice Search

• Do a few practice searches with your terms.
• Did you get too many results or too few results?
• Are the results relevant?
Too Many Results?

Then You’ll Need to Narrow The Results
Narrowing The Results

Always Start By Limiting To Full Text
Still Too Many Results?

You Can Also Narrow By Peer Reviewed Articles
You Can Also Narrow By Publication Date
Adding Terms Can Also Narrow Your Search

Using the Boolean Operator “AND” Limits The Search Because It Only Allows For Results That Have Both Terms

Use “OR” To Find Either Terms To Expand The Search.
Use “NOT” To Exclude Terms From The Search.
Now You Can Begin Reading The Abstracts To Find The Right Article To Use
QUESTIONS?
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