

Let's talk about research strategy. Research topic like media. If you come to the library's website and type media into the catalog. You will get thousand and thousands of results. Similar to a google search if you can imagine typing media into google you are going to come up with millions and millions of results. So the best thing to do is take a really broad category and turn it into a question. Here is an example of a relevant question. So we could take media and change it to more specific like how does violence in the media affect young children. The issue with this is we cannot actually search for the whole question in our library resources. Our tools do not understand an entire question such as this. So for example if I try to search for books and I type in, how does violence in the media affect young children it is going to tell me no entries found. So what i need to do is take this question and turn it into an effective search strategy. First thing I can do is eliminate meaningless words. For example, how does, in the, and affect. What we are left with are these important concepts: violence, media, and young children. You could even take young out, and you are left with children. In the library's tools, you need to put AND in between your keywords so for example, violence AND media AND children. So this tells our tools that you want to find results that has every single one of these concepts. So now if i go to the library webpage, to the library catalog, I can put this search in violence AND media AND children. And now I will get results, I was able to find 111 items. Sometimes you might find that you don't find enough so 111 items is a pretty good number to work with, but let's say we just found one or two items and I really wanted to find more. What you can do is think about alternative words for example, violence OR aggression and for media, OR film OR television, and for children, OR teenagers OR youth. So you can change your search and expand it by adding synonyms so if you put this exact search into the library's search box you go from 111 results to 255 results. So I was able to greatly expand our search. So this is a little different than what we are used to when we go to Google, you can pretty much type in anything, you can misspell anything so it's a little harder to do, but it's definitely the best way to search. So keep that in mind that this actually works for any tool that you are using on the library's website. Whether you are using the search box on the library's homepage or you can visit different databases the same concept works. Be sure you are using a keyword AND another keyword and think about synonyms you might use when you are in some of our databases like ProQuest Central they will actually provide the search box for you and the AND. So you can say, violence AND media AND children. So this is actually given to you, so that makes it a little easier. As always, if you have questions, please go to the library's website and visit our section on Help. You can get help through email, phone, or chat in person.