ADVANCED RESEARCH TIPS

This handout is available online at **bit.ly/LCCAdvSearch**

Getting Started:

1. Go to **lowercolumbia.edu/library**
2. Select **Databases** (left side) OR use the **Search the Library** box
3. Choose your database and begin searching
4. Off-campus, you will need to log in for access:
   a. **Username:** first part of LCC email (example: **doej**)
   b. **Password:** Same as LCC email (example: **One1Two2**)

General Database Searching Tips

- Use **AND**, **OR**, and **NOT** to broaden or narrow your search results. **Note:** some databases require AND, OR, and NOT to be capitalized.

  - **AND** between keywords means the database will only include results that have both keywords, i.e., **"honey bees" AND "organic farming"**.

  - **OR** means more! Using "OR" between keywords means the database will include any results that have at least one of the keywords. This is useful when multiple terms mean similar things, like *college* and *university* - use **college OR university**.

  - Placing **NOT** between keywords indicates that the second term should be excluded from the search results. For example **pets NOT dogs** means you want results about all pets except for dogs.

- Use **"quotation marks"** around key phrases so search results always show those words together.

  - Example: Instead of typing **honey bees and organic farming**, try **"honey bees" and "organic farming"**.

- Nest your search using parentheses to include multiple keywords or AND/OR/NOT searches.

  - For example, in the search **(homelessness OR "homeless families") AND "mental health"** the database will look for all articles that include either homelessness or homeless families *and* mental health. Notice that homeless families and mental health are surrounded by quotation marks.

- Use the search limiters found on the left side of database results to filter results by date range, type, and subject.

EBSCO-Specific Tips

- Select the **Natural Language Search** toggle to use a more Google-like search method.

- The search limiter **Subject: Thesaurus Term** shows a number of synonyms pulled from the database's built-in thesaurus that can be used to broaden your results.

- Another tool sometimes found within an individual article is the **Author-Supplied Keywords** that are selected by the article's author. These can be used to find additional potential search terms, akin to how **Subject: Thesaurus Term** works on the main results page.

ProQuest-Specific Tips

- On the results screen, some results include **_ _ References** next to the Abstract/Details, Full Text, and Full Text - PDF options. Clicking this will give you a list of articles cited by the original article. This is helpful for identifying additional potential sources.

- Within individual articles, the tool **Suggested Sources**, found to the right, will link to any articles in the ProQuest database that are similar to the original article.

- Check the **Search with Indexing Terms** tool beneath Suggested Sources as it can have useful search ideas as well.

Need Help?

- **Chat with a Librarian** - free service available 24/7

- Email us: **library@lowercolumbia.edu**

- Make an appointment: **lcc.mywconline.com**

- Visit us in the **Learning Commons!**