Welcome to

Finding stuff: scholarly literature for your research

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The webinar will be starting soon. While you wait, please mute your microphone.
Objectives

• Build on knowledge gained from watching introductory video

• Learn how to create an effective search query
  • Exercise 1: create your own effective search query

• Discover key databases for your research

• Learn how theses and dissertations can aid your research
  • Exercise 2: use your effective search query to find theses and dissertations

• Learn how conference papers can aid your research:
  • Exercise 2: use your effective search query to find conference papers
Creating an effective search query
Creating an effective search query

An example:

Human rights of child asylum seekers
Creating an effective search query

An example:

Human rights of child asylum seekers
Creating an effective search query

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main concept</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concept 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>AND</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Asylum seekers AND child AND human rights
Creating an effective search query

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Main concept</th>
<th>Alternative 1</th>
<th>Alternative 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept 1</td>
<td>Asylum seekers</td>
<td>OR Refugees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 2</td>
<td>Child</td>
<td>OR Minor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 3</td>
<td>Human rights</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Asylum seekers OR refugees) AND (child OR minor OR juvenile) AND human rights
Creating an effective search query

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Main concept</th>
<th>Alternative 1</th>
<th>Alternative 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept 1</td>
<td>“Asylum seeker*”</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR Refugee*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 2</td>
<td>Child*</td>
<td>OR</td>
<td>OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>OR Minor?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Juvenile*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AND</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 3</td>
<td>“Human rights”</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(“Asylum seeker*” OR refugee*) AND (child* OR minor? OR juvenile*) AND “human rights”
My search string

(“Asylum seeker*” OR refugee*) AND (child* OR minor? OR juvenile*) AND “human rights”
Build your own search string
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concept 1</th>
<th>&quot;asylum seeker***&quot;</th>
<th>refugee*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concept 2</td>
<td>child*</td>
<td>minor?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concept 3</td>
<td>&quot;human rights&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tips:

- Identify keywords and consider synonyms, alternative spellings, broader and narrower terms
- Apply truncation (usually *) for alternative word endings and plurals
- Use wildcards (usually ?) to replace single characters
- Define relationships with Boolean logic:
  - ‘and’ for both terms
  - ‘or’ for either term
  - ‘not’ to exclude a term

E.g. ("Asylum seeker***" OR refugee*) AND (child* OR minor? OR juvenile*) AND "human rights"
Apply search string to database
Which sources to use?

SCHOLARLY SEARCH ENGINES

e.g. Google Scholar and SOLO Articles or Search Everything

Easy search across tens of thousands of items

Coverage unclear

Quality varies

Nearly always returns too many results

BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATABASES (ABSTRACTS/INDEXES)

Often dedicated to a particular subject area

Search across key sources in the discipline - quality is assured

Search brief details (author, article title, subject keywords, abstract)

Should return a smaller number of more relevant results

Often include specialist search options

Especially good for articles, conference papers ...

sometimes less good for books, policy documents, reports
Finding bibliographic databases

Databases A-Z
(https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/az.php)
• A-Z listing all databases
• Choose Subject tab
Finding bibliographic databases

Look for database type “Abstracts/Indexes”
Sciences / Medicine
- Scopus
- Web of Science
- Find a database using Databases A-Z

Social Science subjects
- ProQuest
- Web of Science
- SOLO subject searching (for books)
- Find a database using Databases A-Z

Humanities subjects
- EBSCO
- SOLO subject searching (for books)
- Web of Science
- Find a database using Databases A-Z

History
- Historical Abstracts
- SOLO subject searching (for books)
- Web of Science
- Find a database using Databases A-Z

English Literature / Modern Languages and Literature / Linguistics
- MLA
- SOLO subject searching (for books)
- Find a database using Databases A-Z
Exercise

APPLY YOUR SEARCH QUERY TO A DATABASE