Key Search Word Tips

Key Words are important to determine in order to find articles that truly pertain to your topic. "Key Word Search" is sometimes also called "Search Expression". Many times those key words are relatively easy to define. Other times it might be helpful to write out a sentence on what your topic is about. Then take the nouns from that sentence and use them.

Most search engines are fairly robust, meaning they can take your input, even if it is just a whole string of nouns, and find appropriate response articles. Sometimes it is more effective to separate ideas with commas or the word 'and'.

Now to tips on the Search fields. As you can see by accessing the field tab, you can input author, journal, subject, title, abstract and so on. I usually start with looking for my Key Words within article <u>abstracts (AB)</u>. That way I know that my Key Word is also a key component of what is written in that article.

As noted in the ILI video, you can play around with limiting your search if you are getting too many unrelated articles, or you can expand your search if you do not get enough of what you want. The more Limitors you enter, the narrower (and more focused) your results will be.

Boolean phrases can be important, however I find I rarely change the default words:

      AND: looks for all the words submitted
      OR: searches any of the words submitted

Specific punctuation can really make a difference in your search parameters. For instance:

      " xxxxx ": looks for the exact phrase

      Example phrase—multidisciplinary team. You would not want the search to give you multidisciplinary articles or team articles, you want articles on the whole multidisciplinary team concept.

Use parentheses (xxxx) to indicate importance of certain words: search engine looks for those words first

Adding * after a stem word is call truncation: search engine looks for any word beginning with that stem. For instance, NURS* will give you nurse, nurses, and nursing. This trick **really helps** because you usually don't care what form of the word is found.

Inserting ? is called a Wildcard: if you are not sure of how a word is spelled you can use this. For instance, for?sics will give you forensics

Another topic we should talk about is how to manage the articles that you do find. As stated in the video, you should download and save your pertinent articles into a folder on your computer. Either organize by topic, or by course, or even by module within a course (that's how I do it).

However, if you are working on a big project, you will want to do two more processes.

1. Keep a running tally of what Key Words and combinations of Key Words you used in your searches. Also keep a tally of what Databases you have searched with these Key Word combinations.
2. Keep some type of log of the pertinent articles. I like to use a simple Excel spreadsheet that I can sort and filter to my heart's content. Mine looks like this:

Last, but not least, here are a couple of pertinent Scholarly Articles for further reading if you desire:

Williams, P., Nicholas, D., & Rowlands, I. 2010). E-journal usage and impact in scholarly research: A review of the literature. *New Review of Academic Librarianship, 16*(2), 192-207. doi: 10.1080/13614533.2010.503645.

Haines, L. L., Light, J., O'Malley, D., & Delwiche, F. A. (2010). Information-seeking behavior of basic science researchers: Implications for

library services. *Journal of the Medical Library Association, 98*(1), 73-81.

Hinde, S., & Spackman, E. (2015). Bidirectional citation searching to completion: An exploration of literature searching methods. *PharmacoEconomics, 33*(1), 5-11. doi: 10.1007/s40273-014-0205-3.

Janssens, A., Cecile J. W., & Gwinn, M. (2015). Novel citation-based search method for scientific literature: Application to meta-analyses. *BMC Medical Research Methodology, 15*(84)*,* 1-11. doi: 10.1186/s12874-015-0077-z