POWER SEARCHING: Understand Your Search Options

The OneSearch Box

- Available on the library's home page
- Configured to search all library resources simultaneously
- A good place to start, or when you want to see everything that might turn up on a subject
- Not the best choice when you want to search for a specific journal, title of article, or author.

Best use:
Use this search option like you would open a door: as a way to get through to more specific options for searching.

Search Results Page: The Navigation Bar

- New Search: Clears the Advanced Search box so you can start a new search.
- Search Journals and Ebooks: Searches the publications the library owns or has access to, including the Directory of Open Access Journals. Contains a large list of disciplines for browsing. The best choice when you're seeking a specific book title.
- Search by Database: Select one specific database (such as CINAHL or PsycArticles) to search. This can be very powerful as each database has unique search options that can make finding specific items much easier.
- Library Home: Returns you to the library’s home page and the OneSearch box.
Use the fields when you already know the title of an article, the journal name, or the author. Limiting your search to specific database fields can yield more precise results.

Separate your keywords and use Boolean operators; try not to dump everything into the first box.

PICO is a format for developing a good clinical research question prior to starting one's research. The PICO Search function allows you to apply this evidence-based technique to your searches.

PICO stands for: patient, problem or population; intervention; comparison, control or comparator; outcome.

PICO is used by medical professionals to formulate their clinical questions. It's a good practice in general to form your research questions using this strategy. Not only will you have a sound research question, it will be much easier to search for evidence!
Clicking on the name of the database (e.g. Cochrane Clinical Answers) to go to a special search box for that individual database. Be sure to look at the fields; there are often options available that are unique to that database.

Clicking on a MAJOR or MINOR subject within an article’s abstract will re-search the database for that specific topic. You can filter further by adding additional subjects in the REFINE RESULTS menu on the left.