

# Blaine S. Kern Library

## Searching Tips

1. If one term doesn't work, don't give up. Try variations.  
Ex. Migraine headaches  
Migraines  
Migraine and headache
2. Break up phrases. Use "and" instead of a preposition.  
Ex. Dose of medicine  
Dose and medicine
3. What else is it called?  
Ex. Cardiac arrest  
Heart attack  
The database thesaurus can help you find an appropriate search term.
4. Start narrow, then broaden.  
Ex. Tuberculosis  
Lung Diseases
5. Limit the number of search terms to those that are most important.  
Each key word that you enter must be found in the article.  
Ex. Tuberculosis and AIDS and treatment and medication  
Tuberculosis and AIDS and treatment  
Tuberculosis and AIDS
6. When you find an article you like, look at the subjects listed in the full citation. You can also search those terms.
7. If you are looking for any article on a subject rather than a particular article, browse through the paper copies.
8. In most databases, there are ways to limit a search. For example, if you are using a database which includes many foreign journals, you may want to limit your search to English language. If a database includes book chapters, you may want to limit your search to journal articles only.  
  
Do **not** limit your search to full text. The library has journals that are not available in full text or you can request articles through Interlibrary Loan.
9. Allow time. Don't expect to find something in ten minutes.  
Research takes time
10. Ask a librarian for help. That's why we're there.