Article Searching Tips

Paula Cardozo, BA, MEd, MLIS
Professional Librarian, U of L library
July 2020
paula.cardozo@uleth.ca
Getting Started
Library homepage: https://www.uleth.ca/lib/

- Searching library resources is a little different from Googling
- Avoid sentences or questions
- Break your topic down into keywords and separate different concepts with the word AND

Here’s an example of a search in Summon, the search bar on the Library’s homepage:

```
self-regulation AND cognitive load theory
```

Advanced Search
Understanding Your Search Results

- Summon searches many different resources, some unrelated to Education or Psychology. You may find too many or irrelevant results.
- Before you click on a Full-text link, have a look around. There’s lots going on that can help you.
There’s no “perfect” number of results, but if you have thousands you probably need to do some refining. You can add another search term (with AND between) in the bar. Or “Refine Your Search” down the left-hand side (don’t be afraid to experiment!)
When you see something you like:

Before clicking on the Full Text Online link, click on More Details. Give the system a chance to do some work for you!
Finding more keywords

- Does the record include the Subjects?
- You can add these to your search or replace similar concepts
- For example, we used self-regulation in the original search, but maybe we should change it to self-regulated learning
- Tip: to catch variations of the concept, put a * where the word changes
  - For example: self-regulat*

Potential new search string: self-regulat* AND cognitive load theory
Some tips on keywords in Education

• Resources in the U of L library are catalogued using the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LC)
• LC is an American system of classification
• American terminology, especially for Education, can be quite different from what we use in Canada
• Americans can also use different spelling: behavior
• Use the nation, not the nationality
  • Don’t type: Nigerian education
  • Use instead: Nigeria AND education

Paula’s Advice:
• Experiment with your keywords
• When you find something you like, check out their keywords/subjects
• Even if your article is on a Canadian topic, it will often be classified using American terminology (use: AND Canada)
• Don’t get frustrated and give up on your topic if you don’t find relevant results right away. If you need help searching let me know!
  paula.cardozo@uleth.ca
Some tips on keywords in Counselling & Ed Psych

• Resources in the U of L library are catalogued using the Library of Congress Subject Headings (LC)
• LC is an American system of classification
• American terminology can be quite different from Canadian
• Americans can also use different spelling: counseling (with just one L. To catch variations, use counsel*)
• Use the nation, not the nationality:
  • Don’t type: Canadian counselling ethics
  • Use instead: Canada AND counsel* AND ethics

Paula’s Advice:
• Experiment with your keywords
• When you find something you like, check out their keywords/subjects
• Even if your article is on a Canadian topic, it will often be classified using American terminology (use: AND Canada)
• Don’t get frustrated and give up on your topic if you don’t find relevant results right away. If you need help searching let me know! paula.cardozo@uleth.ca
Still getting “too much stuff?”
Try Education-specific databases!
If you’re getting too many or irrelevant results in Summon or Google Scholar, go here!

Go to the Library homepage
https://www.ulethbridge.ca/lib/

Click on the Guides tab

Click on Education

Go to either the Research in Education or Counselling & Educational Psychology guide

Click on the Articles tab

Subject-specific databases will give you fewer results, but possibly much more relevant results (what will you do with all that extra time??).
Searching subject-specific databases simultaneously: EBSCO databases

Click on Choose Databases

For many Education & Counselling searches, you should always choose Education Research Complete & ERIC

TLN, MC, & Counselling Psychology students should also add CINAHL & other relevant Health Sciences databases

Is your topic cross-disciplinary? If so, add other databases like SocINDEX, Gender Studies Database, America: History & Life (for Canadian History topics), Bibliography of Native North Americans, etc.
Searching subject-specific databases simultaneously: ProQuest databases

Click on Change Databases
For many Education & Counselling searches, you should always choose Education Database & ERIC
TLN, MC, & Counselling Psychology students can also add Nursing & Allied Health

In addition to the cross-disciplinary databases listed, consider using Canadian Business & Current Affairs if you’re searching for Education trade publications or newspaper/magazine coverage of Canadian Education topics.
Contact Paula, your Education Librarian, at paula.cardozo@uleth.ca (especially if it is Education-specific)

You can also contact the Research Desk through the AskUS button on the Library homepage

There are lots of self-help resources available on the LibGuides for Education & Counselling/Ed Psych

We have a ton of LibGuides on various topics. Click on the Guides tab on the Library homepage to check them out.

Don’t EVER be embarrassed about contacting us – we’re here to help!