Keyword Constructs

Advanced searching of databases can be achieved by finding specific terms that are important to your field of study. Because of this, the library advises researchers to consider the many synonyms and related terms that are part of their topic. Once you find how the area of expertise defines its terms, you will retrieve many more relevant articles.

Keywords can be found in the research itself. As you are searching, pay attention to terms used by the authors. Are they different from the terms you have used to search? If so, try those new terms in a separate search.

Are you searching a new program or idea? New programs and ideas may not have made it into the lexicon of your subject area. Search new concepts in quotations. Ex. “New Smith Method of Education.”

Look for your topic in the Subject and Descriptor fields. Your success may lead to more articles! When you find articles that seem to fit your topic, check out the Subject or Descriptor fields in the database record. Subjects and Descriptors are not the same as keywords. These “controlled vocabulary” words will link you to a group of articles that has been determined to be about the same topic.

*Always remember to check references at the end of your articles more articles and authors who have become important in the field!
*I and my colleagues are always ready to help along the way! Don’t be a stranger!

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