**Searching Tips**

**Connecting concepts...**

* Join similar ideas or alternate term with "OR."
* Link different parts of your topic with "AND."
* Exclude concepts with "NOT."

**Keywords are...**

* A good way to start a search.
* The important concepts in your own words.
* Found anywhere in the article (title, author, subject terms, etc.).
* Very flexible.

**Subject terms...**

* Every article or book is tagged with them.
* They are specific, technical terms that describe what the article is about.
* A good way to find everything on a topic.

**Truncation...**

* Use a **\*** at the end of a base word to find all variant endings
* E.g. **nurs\*** would include **nurse**, **nurses**, **nursing**, etc.

**Quotation Marks...**

* Use quotation marks around a phrase when you want to make sure the words to be next to each other in each of your results.
* E.g. **"health sciences"**

**Subject Terms:**

* While keywords are search terms that you develop, subject terms are search terms that have already been developed - each article is already tagged with subjects terms that describe it. You can copy these terms into your search to use them as keywords, or you can go to **CINAHL Headings** and do a structured subject term search.
* **Keywords:**
* Keywords are words or phrases that you use to describe your research topic - both the content (eg diabetes) and the research methodology (eg quantitative). You can use as many or as few keywords as you like, and you don't have to include a method, although it may help narrow down your search resullts.