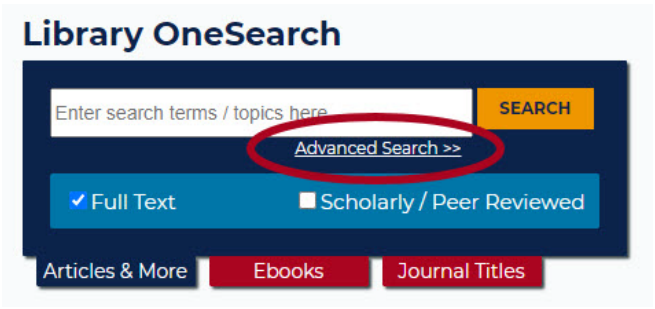
Advanced Search Techniques

THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA GLOBAL CAMPUS Library



Make your research **better, faster,** and **easier** by using these techniques when searching the Library.

Remember that research is a process.
Don't be afraid to experiment with different combinations of keywords and techniques to see how your results change!

Keyword Searching

Search only for the **most important words or phrases** in your topic.

Library databases work differently from Google.

Take your research question and pull out the most important words:

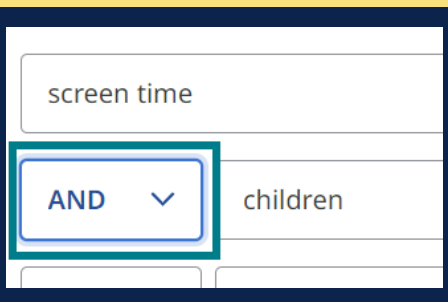
"How does **screen time** affect **children**?"

Synonyms

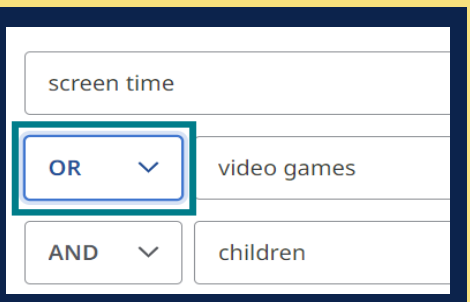
Include synonyms and other related words in your search.

Using synonyms or related words will increase your search results.

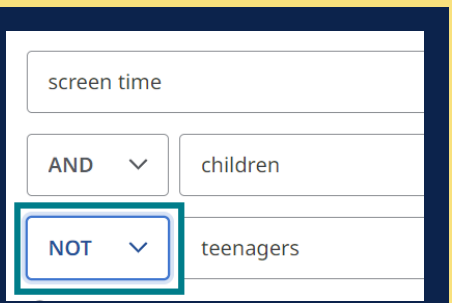
Boolean Searching: Using AND, OR, or NOT



Use **AND** to find fewer results

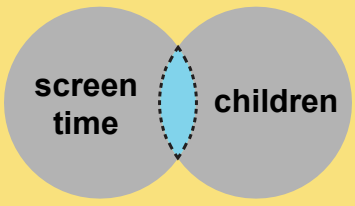


Use **OR** to find more results

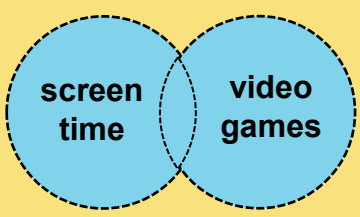


Use **NOT** to exclude results

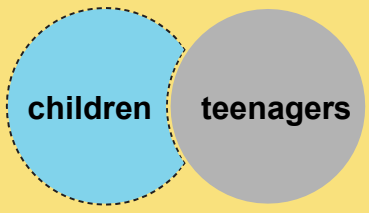
We can look at this using a Venn Diagram:



screen time **AND** children



screen time **OR** video games

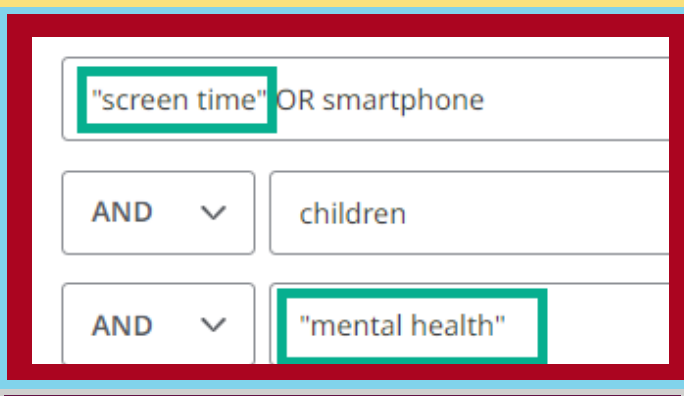


children **NOT** teenagers

*use **NOT** sparingly to remove irrelevant results

Exact Phrasing

Use double quote marks (") around multiple words to find results with those **exact words** right next to each other, in that **exact order**.

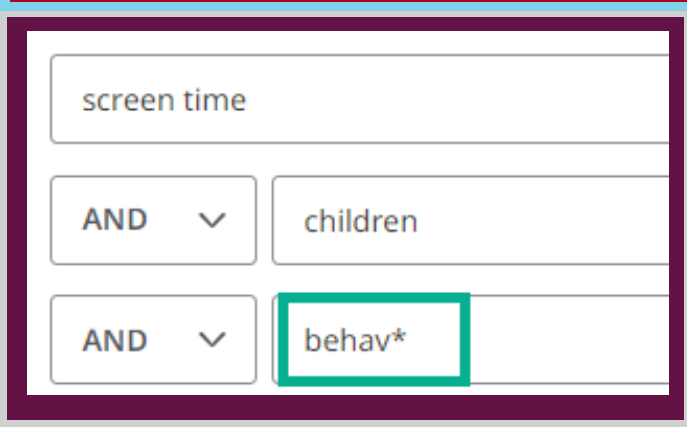


Truncation

Use an asterisk (*) at the end of a root word to search for words with the same or similar meaning. This will give you results with **multiple endings** and **spellings**.

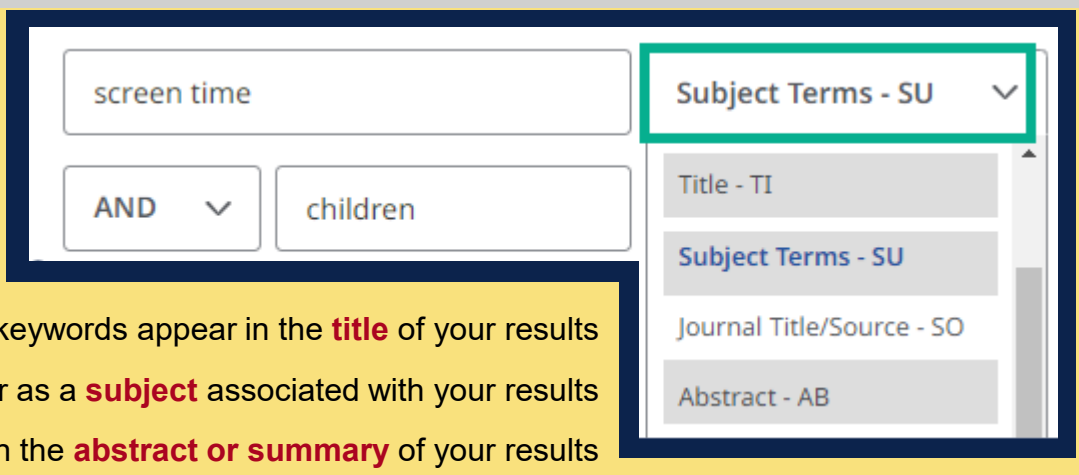
Search for the root: **behav***

behave
behavior
behaviour
behavioral



Field Searching

Search for keywords in a specific field or category by changing the drop-down menu to the right of the search boxes.



TI Title: keywords appear in the **title** of your results

SU Subject Terms: keywords appear as a **subject** associated with your results

AB Abstract: keywords appear in the **abstract or summary** of your results