Finding Journals & search techniques

Name
Date
Search techniques: Keywords

• Tip 1: try to identify the main keywords that describe your assignment:

  “look at and discuss the various comparison and identification techniques for hair and fibres and their role as physical evidence ”

• Comparison, Identification, techniques
• Hair, fibres, evidence
Search connectors

AND, OR & NOT

• These are known as BOOLEAN OPERATORS and are used to combine search terms…

• **and** will find all search terms
• **or** will find one or another or both
• **not** will exclude terms
Similar words/Synonyms

• Think of alternative or similar terms (synonyms) that could also describe your topic
• **Comparison** – Compare, Analyse, Comparability
• **Technique(s)** – Approach, Procedure, Skill, Usage
• **Hair** – Lock, eyebrow, eyelash, beard
• **Fibre(s)** – Shred, staple, strip, grain, thread
• **Evidence** – proof, data, corroboration

• Remember, you can widen your search using **OR**
Wildcard/Truncation

• Use the * symbol to find words starting with a common stem. The * is a TRUNCATION symbol.

• For example, *enti* will find Identify, Identification, identifies
Looking for a particular phrase?

• If you are looking for a particular phrase just typing it into a search box on a database may not give you the exact results you are looking for. However, if you use quotation marks “” you will get more exact hits

• For example, “Physical Evidence”
Access Summon

- Summon is our all-in-one search facility that searches across our hard-copy, eJournals and eBooks so it is a really good starting point to search for materials and topics.
- Summon does some of the legwork and recommends databases and search topics for you.
- You can access Summon via [www.staffs.ac.uk/library](http://www.staffs.ac.uk/library)
- You can also use Boolean with Summon.