WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN A LIBRARY DATABASE:

Advanced Searching
Look for these 5 features in a LIBRARY database – What’s available?:

**Content:**
What topics, publication formats are found in the database?

**Controlled Vocabulary:**
Subject Guide Search; Subject terms with search results?

**Basic Searching:**
Browse Lists; 1 Search Box; Other basic features

**Advanced Searching:**
> 1 Search Box (combine words); Limits; Search History

**Special Features:**
Citation tool; Downloading capabilities?
Advanced Searching:  
Common Features Found in Library Databases

Whenever you **start a new database search**, look for and use:

**To review:**
- **Browse lists** (if available) to review main topic content
- **Boxes (single)** to construct simple searches
- **Basic search tools** to increase likelihood of more relevant search results (ex: “ “; help tab)
- **Bridges** (i.e., citation info.) to link you to articles and other resources

**In addition:**
Explore the “Advanced Search” tab or similar feature to **construct more complex searches**:

**Common “Advanced Search” characteristics to look for:**
- **Multiple boxes:** Use, with Boolean operators, to search multiple, yet related topics
- **Limits and filters:** Use to further refine search results
- **Search history:** Use to recall/revise earlier search queries; may only be applicable per search login session
Advanced Searching: Multiple Boxes and Boolean Operators

At Advanced Search screen look for:

- Multiple boxes to enter search words + ‘search field’ boxes to specify type of search:

- Boolean operators to combine search words

Combine words in boxes with Boolean operators to create a search query:

For each box, experiment with using:
- one box for each major topic
- synonyms within a box, using “OR”
- ‘search field’ boxes

To combine search words, use Boolean operators:
- AND = narrows search results
- OR = broadens search results
- NOT = excludes word(s)

Search query examples using Gale databases:
After you construct your search query using multiple boxes + Boolean operators, scroll down the screen to explore limits/filters to further refine search results:

Gale databases:

- **Use Full Text**
- **Explore range of dates**
- **Explore document/content types – to add or exclude**
Advanced Searching: Search History

Sometimes you may need to recall, review and/or revise search strategies and their results. One way to do this is to use the Search History feature.

Note: You may need to click on the “More” button to get to the Search History screen. A Search History list is only retained for your current login session!

Gale databases:

At Search History screen:

- SubjectGuide: SU_SD ("Dental implants_1_Comlications and side effects")
  - Revise

- AdvancedSearch: Subject (amyloidosis) And Keyword (pain Or discomfort) LIMITS: With Full Text
  - Revise

Note: Need to revise this search to limit to Full Text!

Click on highlighted link to view search results menu list
Advanced Searching:
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Use not only the 4 Bs:

- **Browse lists** (if available) to review main topic content
- **Boxes (single)** to construct simple searches
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But also explore, in depth:

- "Advanced Search" tab or similar feature for more complex searches: