Some tips to help you find information when using search engines.

1. Identify keywords in your topic and use these in search engines.

2. Many search engines and databases use Boolean operators to combine keywords. This helps you to narrow your search.

3. Check the **Help** screens of the search engine to see what operators can be used.

- The AND operator ensures only records that include all the terms are found.

    Use AND to combine your different concepts. This will narrow your search.

    e.g. malaria AND disease

- The OR operator ensures records that include either term are found.

    Use OR to combine words with similar meaning and other alternative search terms. This will broaden your search.

    e.g. infectious OR communicable

- The NOT operator ensures records that include the first term, but not the second term are found.

    Use NOT with caution because you may inadvertently exclude useful material.

    e.g. diseases NOT malaria

- The plus symbol (+) in front of a term requires that term to be in the search results and is similar in to the AND operator.

    e.g. +disease+malaria finds records containing both terms.

- The minus symbol (-) in front of a term requires that word to be excluded from the search results. It is similar to the NOT operator.

    e.g. disease-malaria excludes any record containing the term malaria.

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