# Finding Academic Sources

**P**lan **A**head
- Take keywords from your assignment brief
- Think of alternative terms for those keywords
- Decide where you are searching and what you are looking for. The table below may help.

**S**earch
- When searching keep the assignment question in mind, don't get distracted
- Use the filters such as 'subject' and 'date range' help find relevant results
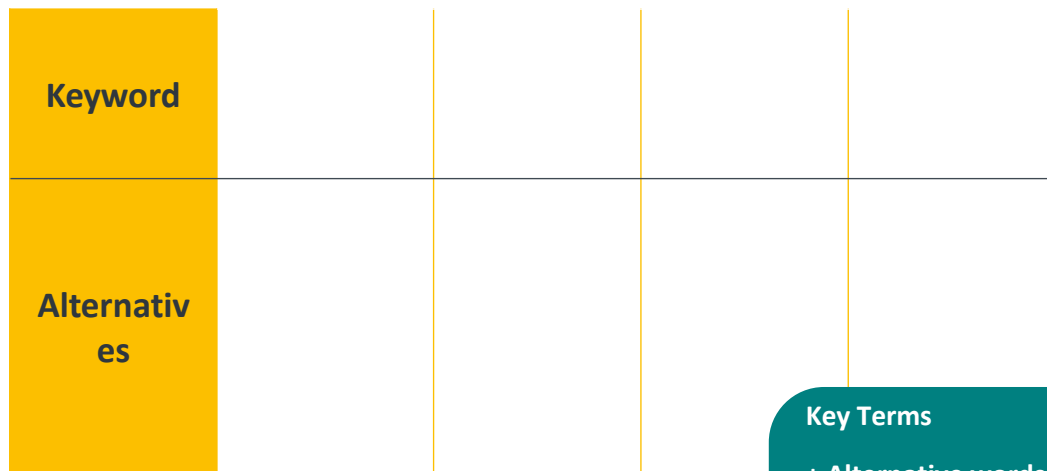- Use the advanced search function as well

**S**elect
- Check to see if what you find is relevant. The find function (CTRL+F) will find and highlight keywords.
- The majority of sources on the Arden Library will be good academic sources.

**Plan Ahead...** You will want to think about what kind of information you are looking for as you will find different types of source material in different places. You will want to make sure that you have access to the Library Portal.

| Source Types | Containing | Accessible Via |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Academic Books | Core academic information about a topic, often written for student academics | Arden Library and BibliU |
| Journal Articles | Specialist academic information about specific topics, often written for professional academics | Arden Library and Browzine |
| Professional Sites | Governmental, professional, charitable information | Arden Study Guides, Online Searching |
| Websites | Public information, not reviewed or approved by academics or professionals | Online Searching and Google Scholar |

# Finding Academic Sources

Once you have figured out where you are going to search for information then you will want to plan how you are going to search, the majority of search engines will work better if you use key words rather than whole sentences.
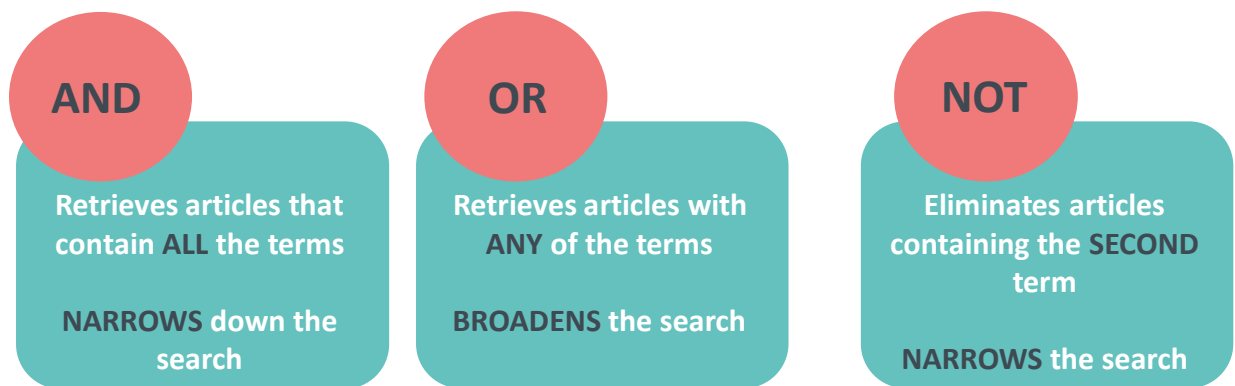
| Keyword | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Alternatives** | | | |

When searching for source material start broad before narrowing down the results using the filters or adding more keywords (one word at a time).

You may also want to try BOOLEAN searches to help you refine your results. See image below for an overview.

**Key Terms**

**+ Alternative words**

**+ Focus** – *study, lit review*

**+ Filter** – *date, type*

**+ Phrase search** - *"social media"*

## AND
Retrieves articles that contain **ALL** the terms

**NARROWS** down the search

## OR
Retrieves articles with **ANY** of the terms

**BROADENS** the search

## NOT
Eliminates articles containing the **SECOND** term

**NARROWS** the search

When you find something that looks useful give it a quick skim to see if it discusses the topics you need, CTRL+F is helpful with this.

If you decide you want to read some of the material apply the CRAAP test to evaluate the content (See Evaluation handout). If you're happy with your findings save it! .. Then continue searching