QUICK TIPS ON RESEARCH STRATEGIES

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No matter what keywords you use or how you combine them, sometimes you will have difficulty finding material you want. The best approach is not to keep on trying the same thing over and over again, but to experiment with different strategies. Below are some suggestions.

Use Keyword Searches

If you have a relevant book or article, check its entry in the database or catalog you are searching to look for relevant "subject" or "keyword" terms to describe it. Use the "subject" or "keyword" term to search for additional relevant material.

Check Reference Lists and Bibliographies

If you have a relevant book or article, check its bibliography or reference list for other titles. Use Discovery/Books/Articles search tabs to see if we have the material available at Hofstra. Keep in mind that you can find out which database has a digital version of a journal or magazine by using the Journals search. If Hofstra does not have what you want, you might be able to get it through Interlibrary Loan (under Popular Services on the library's home page).

Use More Than One Database

Sometimes the database you think will have the material you need proves to be a dud. Do not give up; there is often more than one relevant database. If you are not sure which ones might have relevant material, click on the Databases link on the Library's Web site under More Sources. Once on the A-Z Databases page, select one of the subject areas from the drop-down menu. Also, the Discovery/Books/Articles search tabs can help find material from many different databases with a single search. Material we do not have at Hofstra may be available through Interlibrary Loan.

Ask A Librarian

If you are not sure what to do or simply want to get some suggestions, ask a librarian. You can find one at the reference desk on the first floor of the Axinn Library or via chat. You need not worry about imposing: the librarians at the reference desk or on chat are there to help. To save time, be clear about what you have already tried.