Finding Books:
- Always look for **Location**, **Status**, and **Call Number**.
- Read the screen. Search for author with last name first, omit articles of speech in a title search, and a Keyword Boolean search requires the words “**and**” “**or**” “**not**” between search terms. Quotation marks search for two or more words together in a phrase.
Do you want to reduce the number of results in your catalog search?
- On the results page a button called **Set Limits** appears. Reduce the set of results by location, year of publication, place of publication, language, format, and medium.
**Resources by Subject** pages also include titles of reference books: [www.isu.edu/library/research/subjects.shtml](http://www.isu.edu/library/research/subjects.shtml).

Finding Articles:
Use **Resources by Subject** pages and identify which article databases will serve you best: [www.isu.edu/library/research/subjects.shtml](http://www.isu.edu/library/research/subjects.shtml). The **Library Quick Links**… drop-down menu on the library’s home page provides an alphabetical listing of all the **Databases** for quick access.
**Suggested databases:**
1. Academic Search Complete (EBSCOhost)
   - Select “Choose databases…” to search multiple databases at once.
2. Dissertations and Theses–A&I (ProQuest)
3. Web of Science or BIOSIS Previews [Great for the sciences.]
4. SportDiscus (EBSCOhost)
- How can I reduce Academic Search Complete results?
  - Click the boxes for **Full Text** and **Peer Reviewed**.
  - Select the **Narrow Results** by suggestions on the left-hand side.
  - Use more search terms, connecting them with the word **and**.
  - Use the **Refine** tab to limit to specific years of publication, language, and type of publication.
- To increase results think of synonyms or related terms. Put these inside parentheses and connect with **OR**. Ex: (teen* or adolesc*).
- Look for icons to E-Mail, Save, Export, and Print the articles.
- Search for articles cited in books, encyclopedias, and other articles.
- Can’t find the article?
  - Use the **A-Z Journal List**. (It’s in the **Library Quick Links**.)
    - Allows you to search for the journal.
    - Keep in mind the volume, issue, and page numbers.

Finding Research Help
- See PE Grad Student website: [http://tinyurl.com/pe-grads](http://tinyurl.com/pe-grads)
- See Grad Student website: [http://tinyurl.com/isu-grads](http://tinyurl.com/isu-grads)
- Visit or call our **Reference Desk** (1st Floor): 282-3152.
- Contact Spencer Jardine: jardspen@isu.edu. Phone: 282-5609.
**Boolean Searching**

**Start Simple:** If you are interested in childhood obesity, search with the terms:  
- childhood and obesity

**Narrow results:**
- Add another keyword. Ex: Childhood and obesity and diabetes  
- By location. Ex: childhood and obesity and “united states”  
- By population. Ex: childhood and obesity and “united states” and boys  
- With time or date range. Exs: 50’s, 19th century, 90’s, last 5 years.  
- Search for a specific phrase with quotation marks. Ex: “Chicago White Sox” and “no hitter” and Buehrle

**Narrow results in the databases to one or more of the following:**
- full text  
- scholarly (peer-reviewed) journals  
- Subject: Thesaurus Term  
- Date or date range

**Broaden results:**
- add a synonym or related and connect with or.  
  - Childhood and (obesity or overweight) and “united states”  
  - Tomatoes and (“genetically modified foods” or gmo)  
- Truncate with a wildcard character. The asterisk tells the database to search for variations of that word. The Library’s catalog uses a question mark (?) as the truncation code.  
  - “child* and (obes* or overweight) and ‘united states’”  
  - Obes* returns results with variations of the words obese and obesity.  
  - Child* yields results like child, child’s, children, etc.  
  - Pigment? and paint? (use in Library catalog)  
  - Pigment? finds records with the words pigment(s), pigmenting, pigmentation, etc.

**General Tips:**
- Get some background from a good encyclopedia article. This can give you ideas for narrowing your topic down to a more manageable size.  
- Encyclopedias:  
  - Credo Reference  
  - Encyclopedia Britannica  
  - Oxford Reference Online

- **Use:** Each database includes help documentation. Reading these help pages is highly recommended. Three keys to successful research are:
  
  1. Read the screens  
  2. Persist  
  3. Ask for help

- Effective keyword searching: [www.isu.edu/library/help/boolean.htm](http://www.isu.edu/library/help/boolean.htm)