My Research Project: Plan Advanced Searches

If basic searches are likely to result in large sets of results, plan to conduct advanced searches. To get started, review your research plan or research proposal. Then, with your list of potential search terms in mind, consider the following questions.

1. Should I limit my searches to particular types of documents, such as scholarly journals or recent newspaper articles, magazine articles, and blog posts? Should I focus on scholarly books? Should I focus on trade and professional journals? Should I focus on Web discussion forums and email discussion lists? Should I focus on images and video?
2. Should I limit my searches to sources published during a certain time period, such as the past two years or between 1960 and 1963?
3. How can I focus my searches by using Boolean search terms?
4. How can I focus my searches of the Web by using special search symbols?