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Introduction to Concordia Library Resources for Journalism Students

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Agenda

The Concordia Library spaces

Basic search techniques & sources of information

Practice searching the library’s collections

Databases

Other sources of information

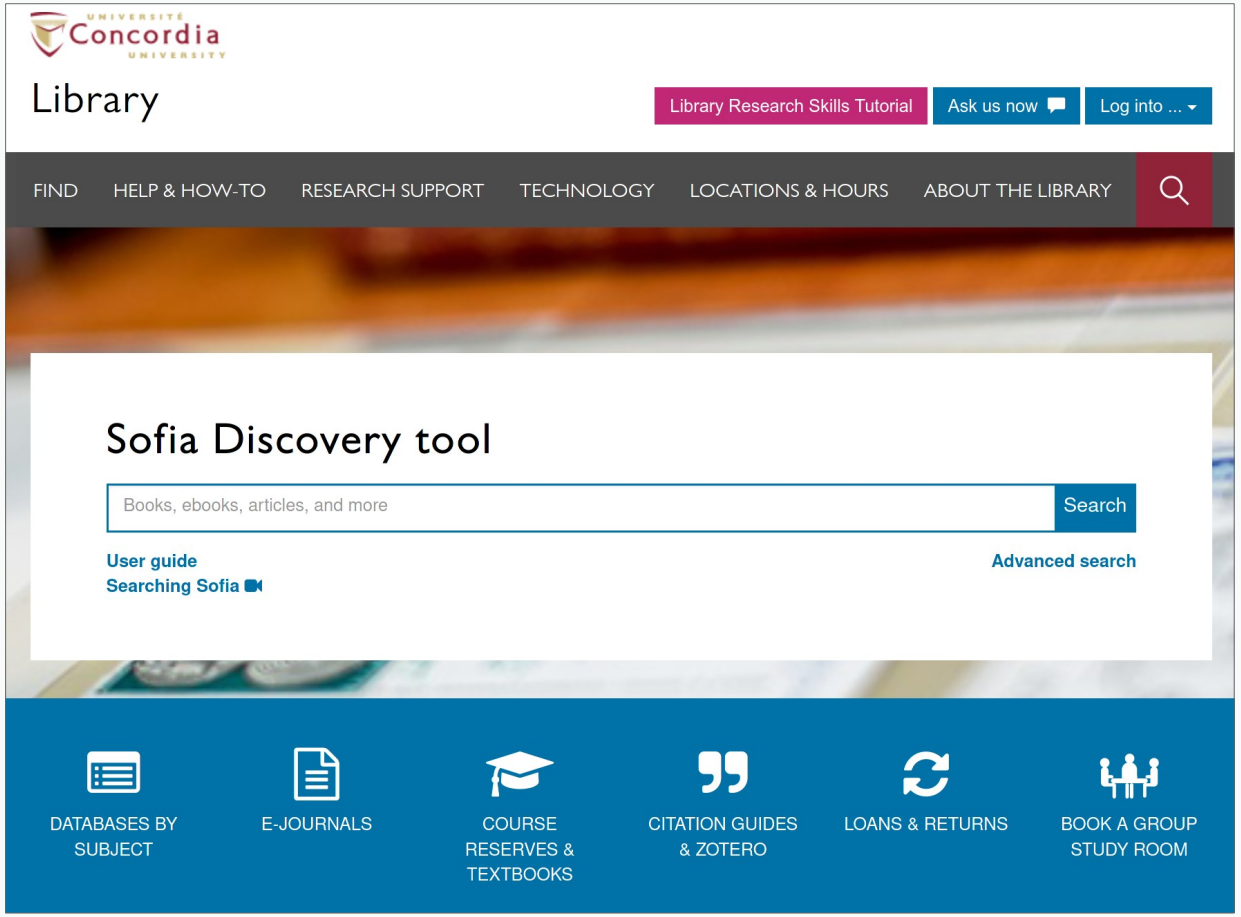
Citing and additional research resources

Where to find resources

From the home page:

- Library catalogue (named Sofia)
- Databases
- Subject guides

https://library.concordia.ca



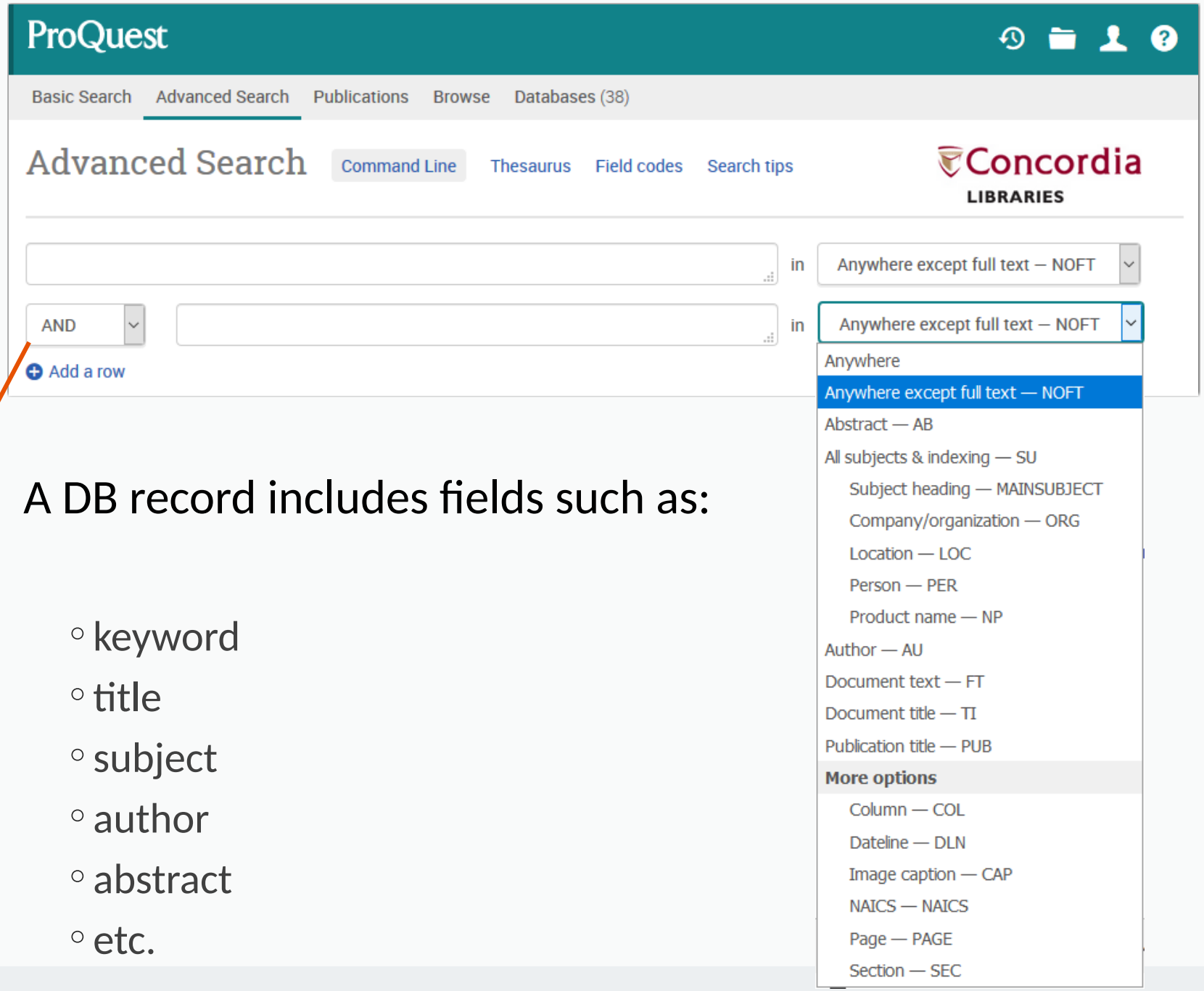
BASIC SEARCH TECHNIQUES

Databases

Create a search expression.

Do not search using natural language like Google.

Boolean operators



A DB record includes fields such as:

- keyword
- title
- subject
- author
- abstract
- etc.

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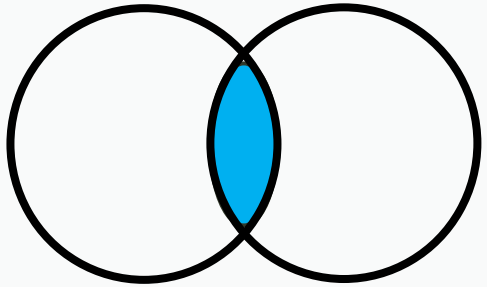
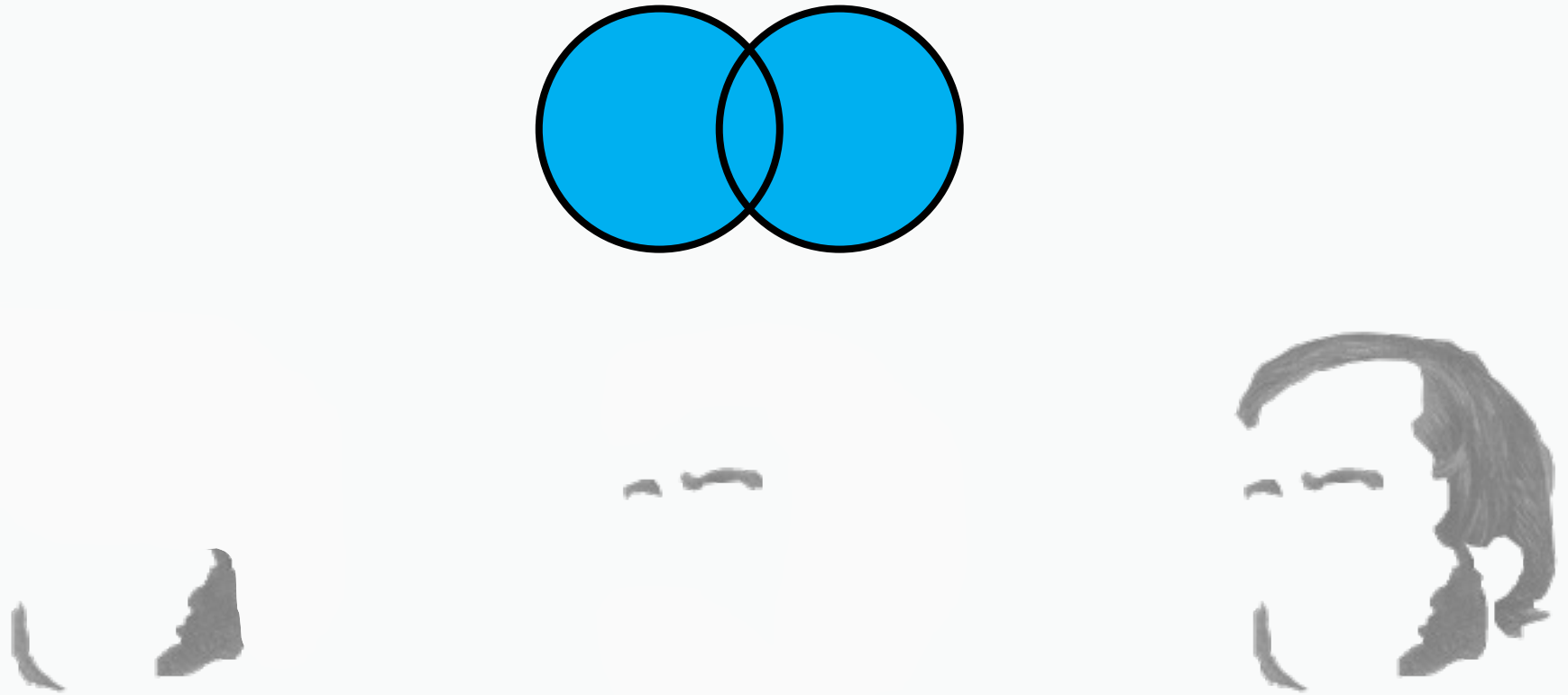
AND



hair

sideburns OR eyebrows



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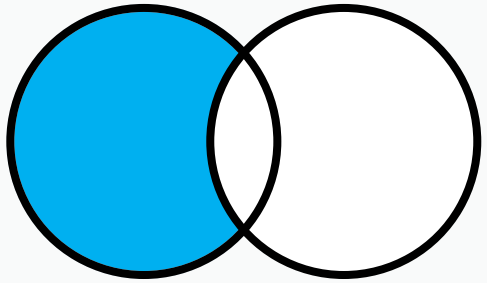
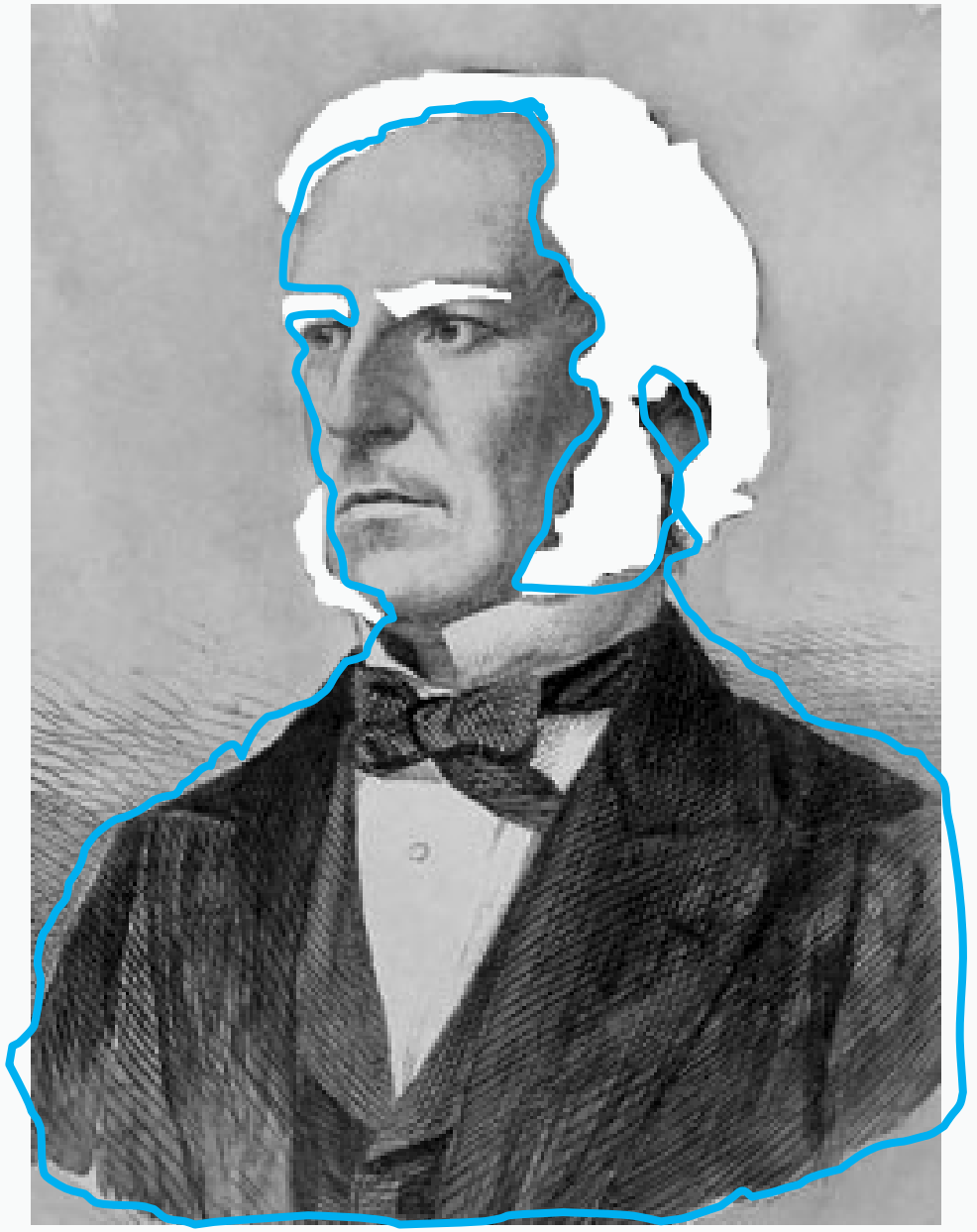
NOT



hair



Search improvements

Truncation *

journal* = journals OR journalism OR journalist, etc.

Specific phrase " "

"chief executive officer" = chief executive officer

- no chief officer
- no The **officer** said the **chief** reason Ms. Smith called 911 was…

*Some databases allow "chief * officer" to retrieve "chief financial officer"*

Combining operators

Use parentheses ( ) to group synonyms using the OR operator & control the order of operations.

Construction AND (corruption OR conspiracy)

Concept 1

Concept 2 with two synonyms

Many types of sources

Source	Where to look
News articles	Library databases, microform, specialized sources
Magazines and trade publications	Library catalogue, databases, popular websites, industry organizations
Scholarly articles; peer reviewed	Library databases, Google Scholar, Semantic Scholar, Internet Archive Scholar, academic journals
Books (academic and non-academic)	Library catalogue
Encyclopedias, dictionaries, reference books	Library catalogue
NGO publications, associations, professional	Organization websites, databases, dedicated newsletters

Consider non-print formats (video, audio, new media)

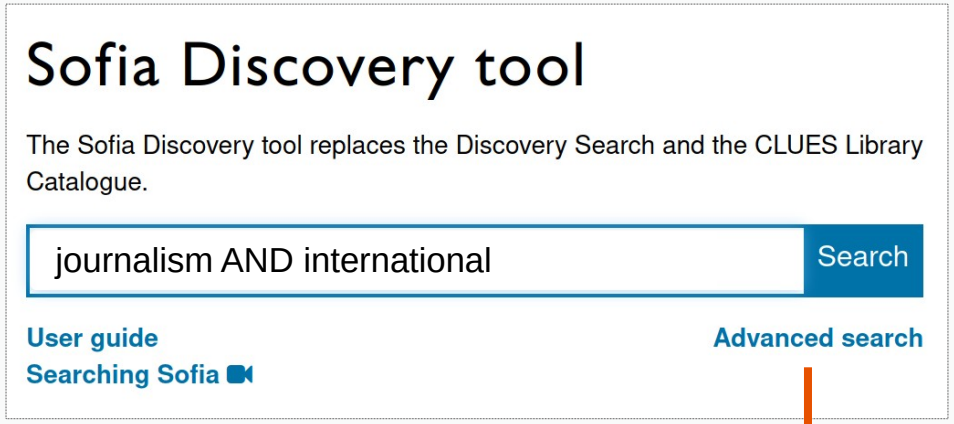
Using Sofia (library catalogue search/discovery tool)

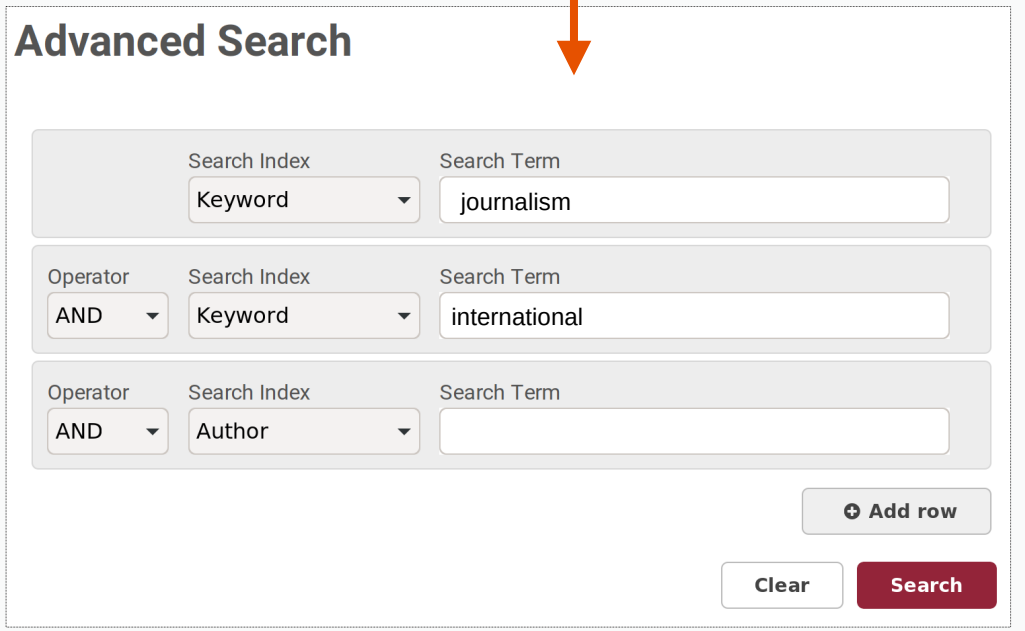
1. Boolean operators are case sensitive!

   journalism AND international

2. Use the advanced search to help you build more complex expressions.

Sofia





Practice:
handout 1 – 5

Searching: Library catalogue (Sofia)

Search for keywords, titles, authors, subjects

Find similar materials using the subject links

Apply Boolean operators to expand or focus your search

Try the filters for format type and location

Practice:
handout 6 - 9

Searching: databases

Find DBs through the:

- **Databases by subject** (via library homepage)
- **Sofia** (library catalogue)
- **Subject guides** (by discipline)

- Subject-specific databases (DB) of academic journal articles
- There may be delays on news content
- Sometimes only plain-text news is available, but sometimes an image of the article as-printed is available
- Specialized news databases **Canadian Newsstream**, **Eureka** (good for Canadian & Québécois content), and **Factiva** (includes business information)

Reference sources

Dictionaries, encyclopedias, & handbooks

For checking facts

- definitions and meanings
- dates of historical events
- how something is done

For an introduction to a topic

Statistics, almanacs, biographies

Business information, etc.

Thinking about sources

Purpose? Authority? Audience? Format? Currency?

Value toward

reconsidering

&

augmenting

what you know

References

- Where do they get their information?
- Is it credited?
- What references are listed?
- Can they be verified?

Reviews of the source

- How is the source regarded by others?
- Are there reviews of the source?

See our guide
https://library.concordia.ca/help/guides.php?guid=evaluating

Write me a literature review on research of how students portray themselves with pets on social media (include at least 2 references and write a maximum of 200 words). Cite all references using MLA style.

A literature review on the research of how students portray themselves with pets on social media reveals that pets are often seen as important components of a student's online self-presentation. According to a study by Xia et al. (2017), students use pets as a way to enhance their online image and as a source of emotional support. They also found that students use social media to document the growth and development of their pets, as well as to receive validation and support from their online network.

Another study by Hargrave and Lucero (2020) explored the relationship between pet ownership and online self-presentation among college students. Results showed that pet owners portrayed their pets in a positive light, using social media to showcase their pets and to demonstrate their love and affection towards them. The study also found that pet ownership was positively associated with self-esteem, and that social media was an important tool for pet owners to maintain and strengthen their relationships with their pets and their online network.

Overall, these studies suggest that pets play an important role in shaping students' online self-presentation and that social media serves as a platform for students to showcase their affection towards their pets and to receive validation and support from their online network.

References:

- Xia, L., Lin, J., & Fan, W. (2017). The role of pets in college students' self-presentation on social media. Journal of Educational Technology Development and Exchange, 8(1), 1-14.
- Hargrave, A., & Lucero, J. (2020). Pet ownership and online self-presentation among college students. Journal of Community Psychology, 48(2), 166-173.

What about generative AI tools?

- ChatGPT does a lot, can it help find research?
- What are its sources?
- What do you know about the content it produces?

How can we find this article?

https://chat.openai.com

Practice:
handout 10 – 12

Other sources online

Include statistics, government documents, legal information, and more

Links to many reliable sources can be found on library subject guides

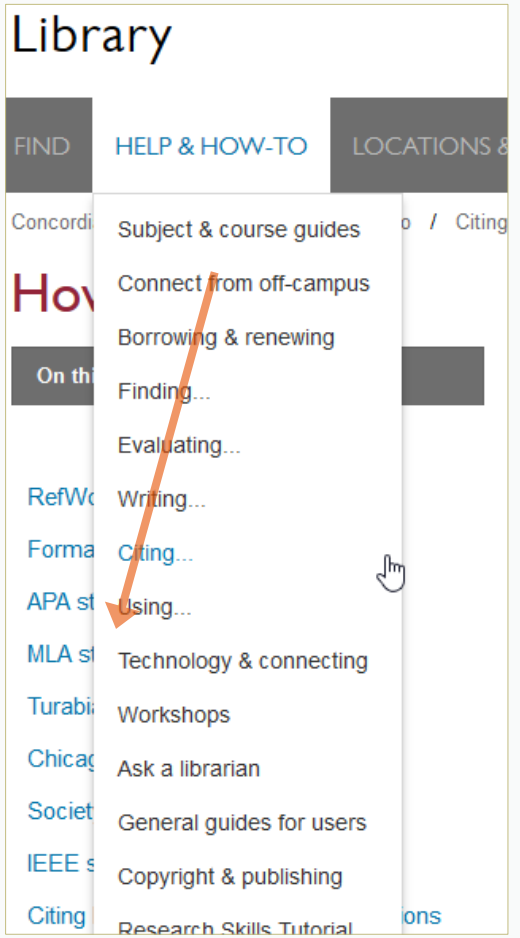
CITING & ADDITIONAL HELP

Citing work in an **academic context**

To credit original authors, show that work is supported by research, and let others follow-up

- Concordia how-to guides on academic citing
  - https://library.concordia.ca/help/citing
- Directly from the style guides
  - APA style blog, Chicago Manual online
- Other institutions' sites, especially Purdue OWL

Note: MLA, Chicago, and APA all require acknowledging AI use for things such as editing or translating. Don't forget to cite them appropriately. AI tools may require additional info.



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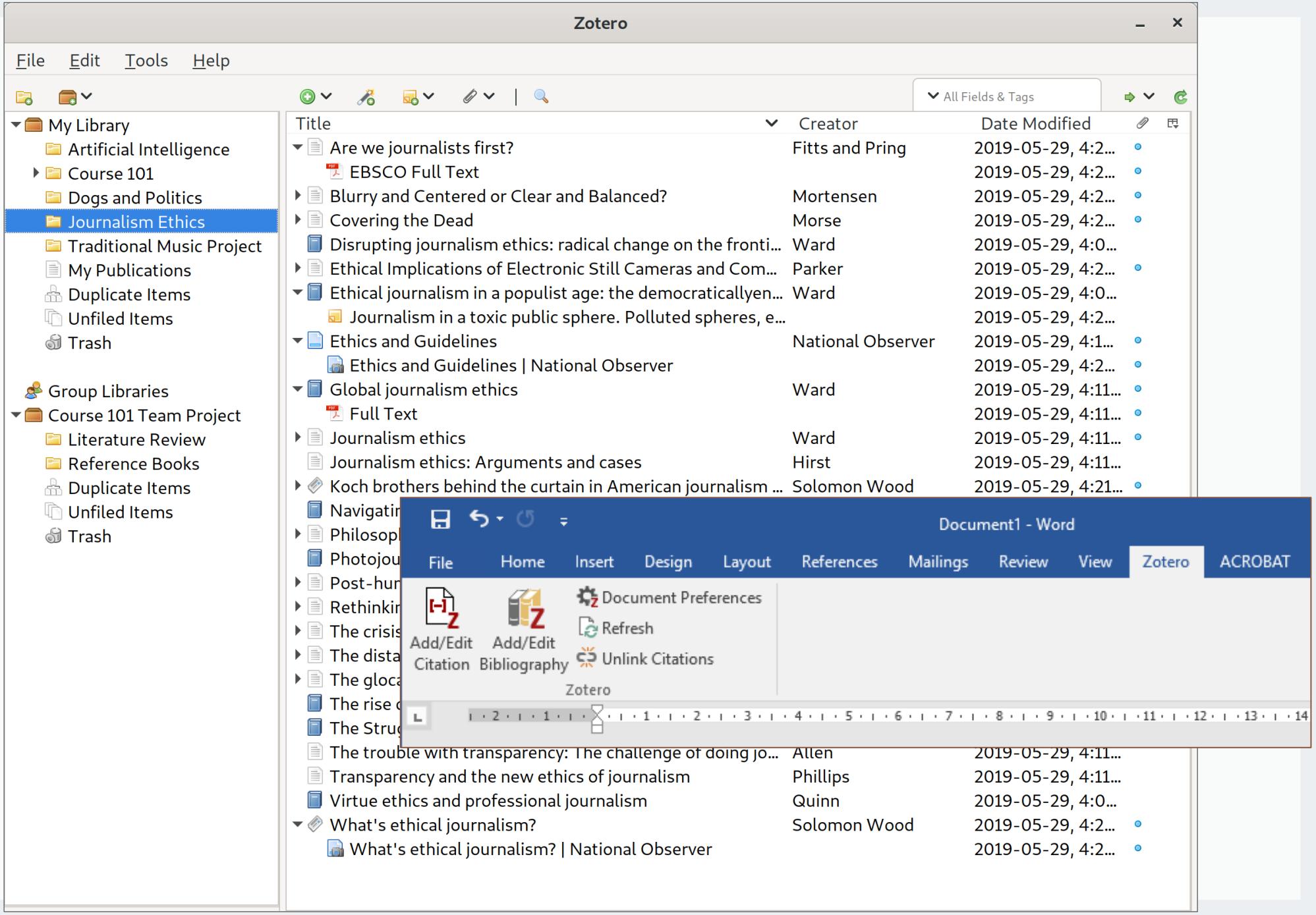

Getting help

In person at the reference desk

Consult a librarian

Subject guides

Online chat Ask us now

Fig. Conversation. (Downey).