Identifying Keywords – Searching for Keywords

When you are trying to look for information - sometimes less is more.
You will often have more success when you search if you look for just a few key concepts or key ideas.

When searching for an entire paragraph or complete sentence won’t do – identify a few keywords and look for these.

To search for material that might answer the following question:

Does watching violence on television lead to an increase in aggressive behavior in children?

Choose only a few of the words (keywords) from this long sentence.

You might then search for:

“television violence” AND “aggressive behavior” AND children
or
“tv violence” AND “aggressive behavior” AND children
or
“television violence” AND aggression AND children
or
“tv violence” AND aggression AND children

Also ...

To find resources that emphasize one or more of the ideas in Google or Google Scholar, you may wish to use the intitle: or allintitle: commands. For more on the intitle: see the What You Must Know guides for Week 1 - intitle:  and allintitle:.

Though Google, Google Scholar, and Google Books don’t require the use of the AND command – many databases do. For more on the commands AND, OR, NOT (A.K.A. Boolean Operators) see the What You Must Know guide for Week 3 – Boolean Operators - AND, OR, NOT.

In more advanced non-Google databases it is possible to combine multiple different searches into one single search:

(“television violence” OR “tv violence”) AND aggression AND child*

For more on these techniques see the What You Must Know guide for Week 2 – Quotes – Finding Phrases ... the guides for Week 3 – Boolean Operators - AND, OR, NOT and Truncation (with the asterisk) ... and the guide for Week 4 – More About OR