Library

Library Plus searching

Wildcards & Truncation
“put your phrase in here” – use to direct the database to look for a phrase where words do—and have to—occur in a particular order to be included; otherwise your terms will be searched for as a phrase and also as individual words that aren’t next to each other in the area you’ve instructed the database to look for them e.g. the abstract. Also works in Google.

# use for extra characters e.g. spelling variants: behavio#r gets both behaviour and behavior so the word could either be eight or nine characters long

? use for ‘unknown’ character e.g. ne?t will look for next, nest, neat etc. but the word has to be four characters long.

* use for truncation e.g. a number of words share the same root letters therap but may have different endings and you want to look for them all. Therap* will look for: therapist, therapy, therapies, therapists, therapeutic, therapeutics etc. but you only have to type in one thing.

Advanced
You can also use the asterisk * between words to locate missing words (this also works in Google) so if you type in: “activities of * living” then Library Plus will look for activities of daily living

Proximity searching (N or W)
N tells LP to look for your words near to each other e.g. osteoporosis N3 falls will look for osteoporosis within 3 words of falls no matter what order they appear in i.e. either word could appear first.

W tells LP to look for your words if they are both a certain distance from one another and in the specific order you typed them in i.e. osteoporosis W3 falls will look for osteoporosis within 3 words of falls but osteoporosis has to appear first.

NB :: Other databases may do the above tasks differently—using different symbols and commands—so if you’re in any doubt always check the online help guide for the specific resource you’re about to use to make sure that you’ll be conducting an optimal search.

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