Introduction to library resources

3. Smart search tips
Smart Search Tips

Analyse your topic and break it into concepts
Smart Search Tips

The topic:

“The attitude of critical care nurses to end of life care”

breaks down into the following concepts:

“The attitude of critical care nurses to end of life care”
What other terms could be used?

Consider:

Synonyms
Broader
Narrower
English/American terminology/ spelling
In our example we could add the terms …

The **attitude of critical care nurses to end of life care**
Smart Search Tips

Use truncation to search for variations of a term

**Nurs* = nurse, nurses, nursing**

**Hospital* = hospital, hospitals**

**Child* = child, child’s, children, childhood**
In our example we could truncate the terms …

The attitude of critical care nurses to end of life care
Smart Search Tips

Use a thesaurus such as MeSH, (a list of Medical Subject Headings), to help select terms.
Smart Search Tips

Enhance your search by adding relevant subject headings.

Enter a keyword and then click on “Suggest Subject Terms” to see what headings are relevant to your topic.
Smart Search Tips

Combine your terms using OR, AND
Using AND will only retrieve items that mention both concepts. It will narrow the search.
Using OR will retrieve all the items to do with attitude and all the items to do with beliefs. It **broadens** the search.
Where possible, enter the search with one concept per search box and then add related terms.