Smart Searching Techniques

1. Identify **Key concepts**: Analyse your assignment question or topic and identify **key terms** and **phrases**.

2. **Combine** the terms in a search: **AND** joins concepts and narrows the search.
   - power **AND** crime
   - astronomy **AND** galaxy

3. **Broaden** your search: **OR** Use synonyms, alternative and related terms to broaden the search.
   **Note**: place the string of synonyms in brackets.
   - (aggression **OR** violence **OR** bullying)
   - (youth **OR** adolescent **OR** juvenile)

4. **Phrase searching**: "...." (inverted commas) Use inverted commas to search for a phrase.
   - "heart attack"
   - "computer software"

5. Use **Truncation** and **Wildcards** *: Search all forms of a word and variations in spelling. Includes differences between British and American words.
   - infan* (infants, infantile, infancy)
   - behavio*r (behavior, behaviour)