# Tips and tricks for online searching

## General tips

* Think carefully about your keywords – individual, specific concepts work better than complicated phrases e.g. ‘maternal deprivation’ AND ‘crime’, rather than ‘Are children deprived of maternal care more likely to end up committing crimes’.
* Put inverted commas around a phrase to keep it together e.g. “climate change”.
* Check that spellings are correct, or try American spelling or terms if you are not getting many hits, e.g. teens instead of teenager
* Use the asterisk\* to indicate lots of words with the same root – child\* will get you child, children, childhood, childlike, etc.

## Tips for when using databases

* Change the main search field to **Title** to return results only where your search terms appear in the title
* Restrict the search to **Full Text** so you don’t waste time looking for articles only to find that you don’t have access to them.
* Restrict the search to **Scholarly Journals** to ensure you return high quality resources
* Restrict the date range to the last five or ten years to access the most up to date research
* Lots of the databases let you set up a folder or account in which you can store the results of searches as you go along.