Database Search Tips

Use the **Advanced Search** whenever this is available, so that you can enter multiple search terms.

Limit/refine results (before/after searching) to **Academic/Scholarly/Peer Reviewed**.

Limit/refine results (before/after searching) to a relevant **Publication Date range**.

![AND and OR Venn diagrams]

**Use AND** between lines/boxes to combine more than one different concept.

Cicero **AND** Catiline

**Use OR** between words to find synonyms, acronyms or equally relevant words.

Persephone **OR** Kore

**Use “quotation marks”** to find exactly the phrase that you entered.

“Socratic irony”

**Use an asterisk* (or other truncation symbol) to find variant endings to a word.**

Peloponn*

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Google Scholar Search Tips

Go to Google Scholar via the link on the [Library Homepage](#), otherwise your search results will exclude content Otago subscribes to.

If **“Otago Article Link”** is displayed to the right of your chosen search result, select this link as the main link may not provide full access.

![Google Scholar search result]

**Use –** immediately before a search term you want to exclude from your search results.

Pythagoras –Plato

**Use intitle:** to get results with your search term in the document title.

intitle:ethics

**Use author:** to get results with your search term as the document author.

author:Garthwaite
Reverse Citation Searching

If you find a text that is great for your research, it is always a good idea to look at the bibliography to find where the author got their information from, and potentially use these texts for your research too. This is called citation searching.

Reverse citation searching is the reverse of this, as in, we look ahead in time to find newer publications that have cited your chosen resource.

Many databases have this feature, below is an example from Google Scholar.

Subject Guides

Library Homepage > Subject Guides > Classics

Subject Guides bring together the main resources that the library holds to support research in your subject areas. Explore the tabs for links to find journals, databases, books, statistics and data, etc.