Search Strategies
Whether you are using the library catalog, Internet, or the library’s databases, you need to know what you are looking for, or define your task. One way to do this is to write down a one-sentence question that your paper will answer when it is finished.

"What programs exist for adolescent substance abusers in rural East Texas?"

Next, identify the major concepts from the sentence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programs</th>
<th>Adolescent substance abuser</th>
<th>Rural East Texas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Then think of some keywords or synonyms for your main concepts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service*</th>
<th>Teen, youth, at-risk</th>
<th>rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Addiction, drug use*</td>
<td>community</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Combine keywords using Boolean (AND, OR); nesting (use of parentheses); and phrase searching (use of quotation marks). For example:

program* AND (adolescent OR teen) AND “substance abuse” AND rural Texas

- Searching for Empirical studies
  - Try starting with "Articles and More" in SteenFind using the drop-down menu
    - Refine the search using options on the right column of page
    - There are limiting options; format types; Subject areas; and Topics
  - Starting at the Research tab at the top of the page, choose the Social Work Research Guide
    - The databases listed have limiting options and a variety of Publication Type choices
    - You may also search several Ebsco Databases at once
      - Starting in one Ebsco database, hit “Choose Databases” at the top
  - Check the ones you are interested in, hit “OK”
  - Enter your search terms
  - Check Subject Terms and Keywords in your results for synonyms or better recognized terms
  - Note the “Find Similar Results” box if available