Keyword searching means choosing a small number of words or phrases from your topic to help you track down good sources fast. For example:

Discuss the relationship between social media and the health of the Irish language.

- Choose *the most important words* in your topic to start searching. Usually, these will be nouns. Sometimes adjectives like Irish or Canadian, for example are useful.
- Put phrases in quotation marks (for example, "social media").
- Sort your keywords by topic. Are some broader or narrower than others?
- Pick broader keywords when looking for introductory books (such as media) and narrower ones (such as television or newspapers) when seeking scholarly journal articles or more focused books.
- Questions? Ask Richard: richard.carter@utoronto.ca

Keyword Searching in 6 Steps

- 1. Identify nouns in your topic or research question
- 2. Weed out the less important nouns
- 3. Sort Your Keywords
- 4. Check the Original Topic / Question
- 5. Revise Your Keywords
- 6. Search

Quick Guide to Boolean Terms

AND – means you need both keywords: it gives you *fewer* results.

Cornish AND radio

OR – means either keyword will do, so long as you get at least one: it gives you *more* results. Normally you use OR with synonyms.

(Cornish OR "minority languages") AND (media OR TV OR radio) AND language

NOT – means you don't want the following word or words in your results.

(Cornish OR "minority languages") AND (media OR TV OR radio) AND language NOT film

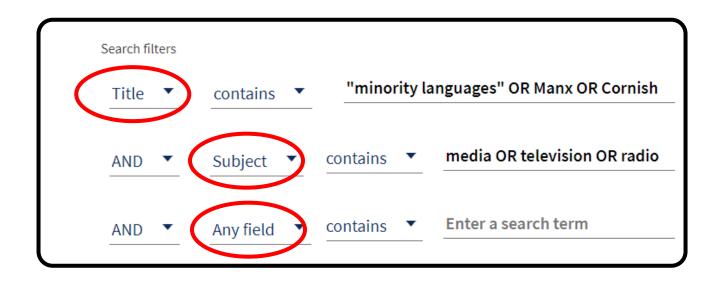
Horizontal Boolean Search

In the Simple Search, you can write a Boolean search horizontally:

(Cornish OR "minority languages") AND (media OR TV OR radio) AND language

Vertical Boolean Search

In an **Advanced Search**, you can often write a Boolean search vertically. Notice that, when crafting the search vertically, you usually don't need parentheses because the rows separate the ideas for you:



With the **Advanced Search** (above), you can ask the database to look for different words in different parts of the record (for example, the subject, author, or title). The *Any field* option searches the entire record and will usually give you more results. When using Boolean terms with *LibrarySearch*, make sure to capitalize OR and AND.