

## Database search tips for Modern Languages

### 1. Planning your search

This [Search Plan for Modern Languages \(Google doc\)](#) can help you develop a list of keywords to use when searching online. Click on File - Make a copy - to save your own copy and then add your own notes to it.

### 2. How do I search a database?

[Browse a list of key databases for Modern Languages here](#)

#### Searching with AND

Databases work in a different way to Google and the LibrarySearch. You'll often see on databases that they have several search boxes linked by **AND**.

You need to type separate keywords or phrases into each search box, for example:

France AND entrepreneurship

Marketing AND social media

This will find references containing both terms.

Add in additional keywords to focus your search – each new word/phrase will narrow down your search

e.g. France AND entrepreneurship AND technology

Marketing AND social media AND innovation.

Experiment with alternative terms - you may find more results, for e.g.

Intercultural communication

Cross-cultural communication.

Example search on **Business Source Complete** database:

Searching: **Business Source Complete** | [Choose Databases](#)

EBSCOhost

marketing

Select a Field (optional) ▾

Search

AND ▾ social media

Select a Field (optional) ▾

Clear ?

AND ▾ innovation

Select a Field (optional) ▾

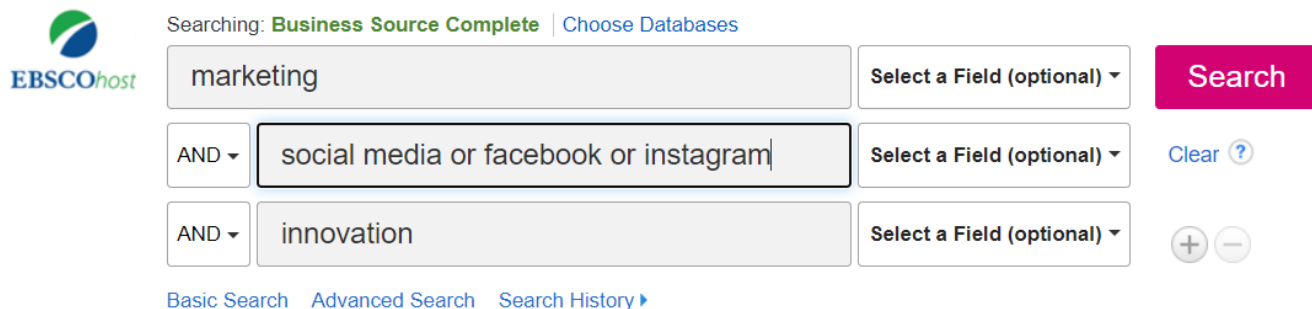
+ -

[Basic Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Search History](#)

#### Searching with OR

You can use **OR** to search for alternative terms and broaden your search, e.g.  
global OR international

intercultural OR cross-cultural  
Don't forget differences in American spellings e.g. centre/center



EBSCOhost Searching: Business Source Complete | Choose Databases

marketing Select a Field (optional) Search

AND social media or facebook or instagram Select a Field (optional) Clear ?

AND innovation Select a Field (optional) + -

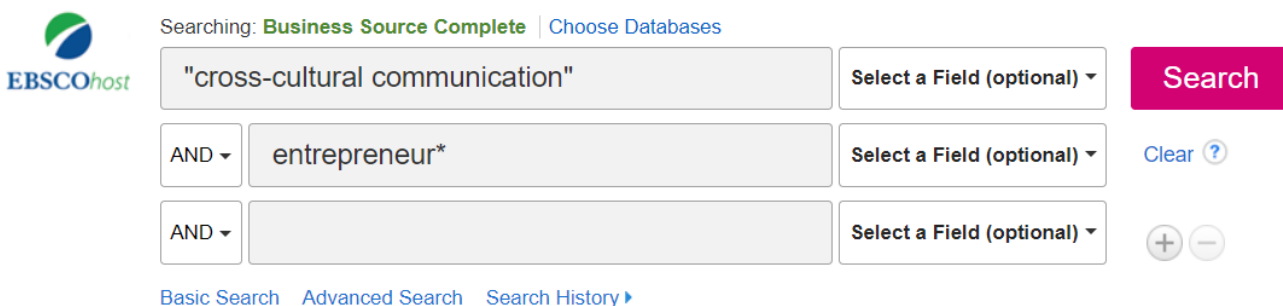
Basic Search Advanced Search Search History ▶

## Phrase searching

Put phrases in quotation marks if you want to make sure the words are only found together (and not separately), e.g. “intercultural communication”; “corporate culture”; “corporate social responsibility”.

## Wildcard symbols

- Use the truncation symbol \* added to the root of a word to search for alternative endings, employ\* will find employ, employer, employee, employment etc.
- Use the ? symbol to replace a character in a word e.g. globali?ation will find globalization and globalisation.



EBSCOhost Searching: Business Source Complete | Choose Databases

"cross-cultural communication" Select a Field (optional) Search

AND entrepreneur\* Select a Field (optional) Clear ?

AND Select a Field (optional) + -

Basic Search Advanced Search Search History ▶

## Refining your results

Look for options to focus your search. These can include:

- Limiting your search by language.
- Narrowing your results by date, if appropriate.
- Focusing on specific kinds of sources e.g. scholarly peer-reviewed articles; market research; country reports.

## 3. Further help for students doing BA Applied Languages and MA in International Business and Intercultural Communication (IBIC)

- If you would like further help, please contact the Academic Liaison Librarian for Modern Languages, Joanna Cooksey by emailing [jcooksey@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:jcooksey@brookes.ac.uk)
- Check the **Course resource help for Modern Languages** at: <https://www.brookes.ac.uk/library/resources-and-services/course-resource-help/modern-languages> for links to key-e-resources, guides and much more.

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