Advanced Search Techniques

# Quick Reminder of basic search techniques:

# **Truncation** and wildcards

*teach\** - teach, teacher, teachers, teaching *optimi?e* – optimi**s**e, optimi**z**e

#### Search Limits



*primary* ***or*** *key stage 1* ***or*** *key stage 2*

**AND**

*Literacy* ***or*** *reading*

These can include:

**Words only in article title** (or in abstract, author’s name, etc)

**Date of publication**

**Publication type** (eg journal article, book, research report)

**Age group or education level**

**Geography or location**

**Full-text only**

**Peer-reviewed journals only**

depending on the database.

#### Thesaurus: to search by subject, instead of by the words the author happens to have used


#### Search History (or Recent Searches) – to combine or amend searches you have just done

#### Saving searches, creating alerts and setting up RSS feeds:

These are all usually done either from a search results page, or from Search History, depending on the database:

**Saving a search** means that next time you log into that database, you will be able to re-run the same search without typing it in again. In most databases, you’ll first need to create an **account** (**My EbscoHost** in most Education databases – create it once and it will work for all Ebsco databases).

**Creating an alert** means you ask the database to alert you, usually by sending you an email, each time new articles are added to the database which would match your preferred search strategy.

**RSS feeds** will proactively push information about relevant articles into an RSS feed reader (so you have to be using one of these already, such as Feedly, Feedreader or directly within your browser).



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